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Feasibility of 'Global Protection' Plan Viewed

MK2802093592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Feb 92 p 4

[Article by Vladimir Kozin, "Expert from the Russian Foreign Ministry Administration for Problems of Arms Limitation and Disarmament: "Position: From Confrontation to Confidence. Global Shield in Context of New Strategic Doctrine"]

[Text] Russia's new initiatives have elicited a number of questions. The nuclear powers and many nonnuclear countries have quite justifiably shown interest in the possible quantitative correlation of warheads in all three elements of the strategic triad (intercontinental ballistic missiles [ICBM's], submarine-launched ballistic missiles [SLBM's], and heavy bombers) within the framework of the declared limits: 2,000-2,500 units. They are also interested in the number of strategic delivery vehicles that will carry the proposed range of warheads (Russia's proposals contain 1.8-2.25 times fewer of these than the last U.S. initiatives). Will the CIS and the United States be able to "compress" their strategic offensive arms so drastically, when the limit of 2,000-2,500 strategic warheads [boyezaryady] for each side stipulated by Boris Yeltsin would be lower by a factor of 4-5 than the current level of the sides' strategic offensive warheads and lower by a factor of 2.4-3 than the similar limit set by the first Strategic Offensive Arms Treaty [SSNV-1]?

By way of discussion and without, of course, aspiring to give the final verdict, I would suggest the following approach to seeking answers to these questions.

The CIS, with (best case scenario) or without the United States, could cut back its strategic offensive arms in terms of delivery vehicles and warheads to roughly 600 and 2,000 units respectively. As for the CIS, and consequently Russia, their interests would probably be served by a ceiling of 608 and 2084 respectively, with the following correlation between the three components in the strategic triad [In the following table figures in parentheses represent percentages]

Kind of Strategic Offensive Arms	Number of Delivery Vehicles	Number of Warheads
ICBM's	242 (39.8)	242 (11.6)
SLBM's	292 (48.0)	1768 (84.9)
Heavy Bombers	74 (12.2)	74 (3.5)
Total	608 (100)	2084 (100)

The sides could give up MIRVed ground-launched ICBM's, keeping MIRVed SLBM's, and abandon the use of heavy bombers as nuclear delivery vehicles, which would be counted as one unit each.

Setting these levels and sublevels of the strategic triad for the CIS would mean deep cuts in its strategic nuclear arsenal. In particular, in comparison with the first Strategic Offensive Arms Treaty:

—total number of delivery vehicles by a factor of 2.6;
—total number of warheads by a factor of 2.9;
—ground-launched mobile ICBM warheads by a factor of 6.6;
—heavy bomber ICBM warheads (in the event of a move to single-warhead versions) by a factor of 20.

In response to the latest U.S. presidential proposals the CIS could eliminate all ground-launched MIRVed ICBM's provided that the United States eliminates all ground-launched Peacekeeper (MX) ICBM's, cuts the number of Minuteman ICBM warheads to one each and the number of SLBM warheads by roughly 40 percent (a third in Bush's proposals), and also totally withdraws tactical nuclear weapons from Europe. On a reciprocal basis the CIS and the United States could fully remove from the arsenal air- and sea-launched nuclear-tipped cruise missiles—first long-range (over 600km), and then all nuclear missiles of this class.

If all this happened, the CIS and the United States would approach the level of British, PRC, and French strategic offensive arms. The level of nuclear risk would drop drastically.

The threat of a nuclear attack or a retaliatory nuclear attack could be removed not only by physically eliminating missile delivery vehicles and nuclear payloads but also in certain other ways: for instance, by taking missile complexes off combat alert, dismantling warheads, and also, probably, by "switching off" [otklyucheniye] electronic guidance systems.

Some specialists reacted negatively to the idea of nontargeting of strategic offensive arms, using the counterassets [protivotsennostnyy] and counterforce doctrines of the past which made provision for inflicting a nuclear attack on cities as an act in retaliation or a first strike (the first doctrine) and on military installations (the second doctrine).

But times have changed, the political climate has improved, and the number of such targets has been steadily reduced. In particular, according to some estimates, the United States has reduced the register of strategic targets on CIS territory over the last seven years by 40-50 percent. The Soviet Union did not fail to keep up, and the CIS is also reciprocating. What kind of nuclear targeting can there be when the Paris Charter for the new Europe talks about its signatory states entering an era of "mutual respect and cooperation"? How can Russia and the United States keep one another's vitally important centers in their nuclear sights when their presidents said in the Camp David declaration that henceforth relations between the two countries will be based on a desire "not to view one another as potential adversaries" and that the distinguishing feature of these relations "will be friendship and partnership based on mutual trust"?

Progressing from a political decision on reducing the list of targets to the military-technical implementation of this decision is not a matter of a single step or a single day's work. But this form of deescalating the arms race is cheaper and simpler than destroying warheads. Needless to say, verification [kontrol] of these measures may present some difficulty. But it is possible given trust and cooperation between the interested parties.

Analysts have drawn attention to the second new element in Boris Yeltsin's proposals—the idea of creating a "global system of protection for the world community to replace SDI [Strategic Defense Initiative]"—and to its consonance with the U.S. concept of "Global Protection Against Limited (Missile) Strikes [GPALS]."

The fundamental GPALS plan comprises two ground- and air-based echelons. The ground-based echelon incorporates two basic components: strategic and tactical. The strategic component is designed to protect the country's territory against strategic ballistic missile attack, and it is intended that this component should have a certain number of long-range, stationary ABM missiles in strictly determined deployment areas. The tactical component is designed to cover regional groupings of armed forces outside the country's territory against tactical missile attack and should have short-range ABM missiles in its armory. It is planned that the space-based echelons of GPALS will have space-launched ABM missiles.

This system also has military-technical components: a) ground- and space-based sensors to identify and track targets and guide ABM missiles to target; b) a fire control system incorporating reconnaissance, communications, and control points.

U.S. experts think that this system will be capable of intercepting up to 200 missiles "launched accidentally or deliberately." According to Washington's plans 1996 is scheduled as the first date for the deployment of GPALS.

The main purpose of GPALS is to provide early warning of a missile attack that may come from a potentially dangerous region. Another function of GPALS is to destroy missiles. The mobility and flexibility of the ground- and space-based components of the barrier would make it possible to rapidly and broadly regroup counterforces and weapons in the interests of the states wanting to ensure reliable and timely protection against such limited missile strikes. The creation of GPALS will bring about a situation where it will be quite pointless to use ballistic missiles in a limited strike if they will be faced with an impenetrable shield. This system will be able to partially resolve one of the paradoxes of the nuclear age: the striking imbalance between offensive and defensive arms systems with a considerable bias in favor of the former.

In the interests of evening out this distorted "balance" the restrictive ABM Treaty regime could be somewhat eased: For instance, the limit on ABM missiles permitted by that document could be increased to some extent.

The idea of creating a the GPALS system did not immediately win support. "Developments have been accumulated gradually and in various structures," Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, said recently in an interview with NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, including within the Russian foreign policy department, long before it amalgamated with the Union department.

Of course, Russian participation in setting up and commissioning GPALS should not be a burden on its ailing economy, and there is Boris Yeltsin's firm promise on this. As in the case of SDI, we would not like to see "space-earth" strike space arms deployed in space; space saturated with antisatellite systems; or a refusal encountered to conclude an international agreement on immunity (inviolability) for civil and noncombat (photographic reconnaissance, communications, etc.) military satellites and orbital stations.

Within the framework of the tactical section of GPALS Russia could offer not only its technology and certain innovations, but also specific output—right away, moreover. For instance, joint use, if needed, of the S-300 anti-aircraft missile complex known in the West as the SA-10, which has demonstrated good results in hitting tactical ballistic missiles. In the opinion of Commonwealth military-technical experts, this system is considerably superior to the Patriot system used during Operation "Desert Storm" in terms of effectiveness, including effectiveness in deployment time (five minutes), mobility (it is mounted on a self-propelled chassis), the ration of missiles to radar-locked targets, the capability to fire at targets approaching from varying angles of attack, warhead yield [moshchnost boyevogo snaryazheniya], and certain other features. The S-300 complex is a defensive weapon, and it would be unwarranted to curtail production or put a stop to further improvement work on it. This does not undermine our conversion.

The Russian president's initiatives have been maturing for a long time and were considerably honed [proshli seryeznuyu obkatku] by military and civilian specialists before reaching his desk. These documents have never been prepared—and never will be—by any president alone. Of course, a constructive debate can and even should be organized on various problems of security and disarmament. But it is hardly advisable to prepare such important statements as the statement of 29 January by means of a "nationwide referendum."

Amendments to the Russian initiatives are both possible and necessary. But only with a view to advancing rather than falling back, into the abyss of confrontation and mistrust.

Strategic Reductions Said To Favor U.S.

PM0303131992 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Mar 92 p 3

[Article by Lieutenant General (Retired) Doctor of Technical Sciences Professor Ye. Volkov: "Just Who Benefits From Destruction of MIRVed ICBM's?"—first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] During his recent "State of the Union" address to Congress, the U.S. President put forward a proposal to eliminate all land-based ballistic missiles with multiple warheads held in the CIS. What is the point of this proposal, which has resulted in numerous and often contradictory reactions? The military scientist Ye. Volkov stated his view on this question.

We are talking about missiles called land-based ICBM's with MIRVed warheads. These missiles are a substantive component of U.S. and CIS strategic offensive arsenals. Depending on writers' positions, they may be considered to be a highly important or the most important factor in strategic deterrence, or they may be considered to be quite the opposite—a destabilizing factor.

I will give a brief history of MIRVed ICBM's. Their development [razrabotka] was prompted by a desire to increase the number of warheads on strategic offensive weapons without increasing the number of missiles. The first MIRVed ICBM's appeared in the United States in 1970, when the triple-warhead Minuteman 3 entered service (there are currently 500 Minuteman 3 missiles in the U.S. strategic offensive arsenal). In 1986 the United States also developed [sozdana] the MX ICBM (the Americans call it the Peacekeeper) with 10 warheads, and there are now 50 of these missiles.

In the Soviet Union MIRVed ICBM's only appeared in the latter half of the seventies—that is, more than five years after the United States. In 1991 our strategic offensive arsenal had 744 MIRVed ICBM's of four types (the four-warhead RS-16, the six-warhead RS-18, and the RS-20 and RS-22 with 10 warheads each). All U.S. and Commonwealth [otechestvennyy] ICBM's with multiple re-entry vehicles are MIRVed missiles—that is, after the boost phase the nose section detaches from the airframe, and special motors propel each re-entry vehicle to direct (guide) it to its individual target. There may be a distance of hundreds of kilometers between the targets of one missile's warheads.

The role played by MIRVed ICBM's in the CIS and U.S. strategic arsenal today can be judged from the table. The figures used in it—along with all the other figures used in this article—are taken from the START Treaty and its appendixes, and are typical of mid-1991.

[In the following table the headings denote: A—total warheads in the strategic offensive arsenal; B—on ICBM's; C—on MIRVed ICBM's; D—on submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBM's); E—on heavy bombers]

	A	B	C	D	E
CIS	10,271	6,612	5,958	2,804	855
United States	10,563	2,450	2,000	5,760	2,353

The figures given in the table show that MIRVed ICBM's are far more important for the CIS than they are for the United States. They carry up to 60 percent of all warheads in the CIS strategic offensive arsenal (the figure for the United States being less than 20 percent). It is therefore obvious that a direct trade-off of MIRVed ICBM's between the CIS and the United States is by no means of equal value.

Washington cannot fail to have grasped this. That is why G. Bush stated in his message to Congress that if the CIS eliminates all MIRVed ICBM's the United States would in turn eliminate its MX missiles (500 warheads), remove two warheads from each Minuteman 3 missile (1,000 warheads), cut SLBM warheads by a third (1,920 warheads), and remove nuclear weapons from some heavy bombers.

What would this result in? Above all, we would note that, adding up these figures and comparing the results with the number of warheads on MIRVed ICBM's in the CIS strategic offensive arsenal (around 6,000), we can see for ourselves that the cuts would be roughly identical only if all rather than just some bombers were removed from the U.S. strategic offensive arsenal. Since Washington has no plans to do this, we can conclude that on the simplest criterion understood by everyone—the reduction in the number of warheads—the proposed changes would not be identical, they would clearly benefit the United States.

It should be added to this that the proposed option is based on some CIS MIRVed ICBM's being "traded off" against some U.S. SLBM's and heavy bombers. Yet it is known that qualitatively these types of strategic arms are not equal. In most cases ICBM's are the most powerful and sophisticated type of strategic nuclear weapon. That is why the proposed solution ensures an advantage for the United States.

We would also note that implementation of the U.S. proposal would mean that only a few hundred of the more than 6,500 warheads in the CIS ICBM grouping would be left. This would essentially amount to the destruction of the grouping and a sharp reduction in the combat potential of the Strategic Rocket Forces, which constitute the main defense might of the entire CIS.

And, finally, one other point. Clearly, the United States made the proposal to destroy land-based MIRVed ICBM's on the basis that this type of missile is the most dangerous of all the missiles in the strategic offensive arsenal. But MIRVed missiles are also carried on submarines. Moreover, all U.S. SLBM's have multiple re-entry vehicles. In 1991 there were 672 of these missiles, carrying 5,760 warheads (there were 2,320 warheads on similar missiles in the CIS). The newest U.S. SLBM (the

Trident 2) has eight warheads and is not inferior to land-based MIRVed ICBM's in terms of virtually any indicator. It seems that if the question of destroying MIRVed missiles arises, the totality of both sides' missiles in this class (that is, both land-based and submarine-launched) should be examined, rather than taking merely those which make up the foundation of the CIS strategic offensive arsenal.

It follows from this that the proposal to eliminate all land-based MIRVed ballistic missiles in the CIS strategic offensive arsenal would primarily benefit the United States and is not aimed at ensuring the main principle in strategic offensive weapons cuts—the maintenance of equal combat potential for both parties.

Arzamas-16 Introduces 'Iskra' Lasers to Yeltsin

PM0103174792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Report by Vasiliy Kononenko: "B. Yeltsin's Work Day in Arzamas-16"]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin spent 28 February in the "atomic" city of Arzamas-16.

The motorcade was forced to stop at the very entrance to the city—the people of Arzamas wanted to speak with the president. There were no long speeches of greeting. The conversation at once turned to prices. The city folk complained that it is impossible to live when children's shoes cost 800 rubles, and a ticket to a bathhouse costs five.

The president's conversation in a foodstore in the city center also proceeded in the same spirit of complaints. Although, compared with Moscow prices, basic foodstuffs in Arzamas-16 are cheaper, the city dwellers' wages, judging by their harsh expressions, are insufficient. It is also difficult to exchange coupons for goods. The president promised to help, meaning the implementation of a package of measures to create a strong scientific and industrial center there. But he declared that the government's principled position is that it is necessary to free prices even further, while the local authorities are obliged to decide independently which foodstuffs they can subsidize, if there are funds in the budget.

On the whole, his contacts with the population showed, as was the case on other trips, a truly Russian psychology: The master will come, and the master will arbitrate. Is it really not possible to organize the baking of bread in small bakeries, for example, without involving the president? People complained to the president, and local administrators at once gave an assurance: We will do it.

B. Nemtsov, the "governor" of Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast, also had to blush in public.

"Have you decided to stop calling yourself head of the administration and call yourself governor?" B. Yeltsin asked him.

"The oblast soviet renamed me," Nemtsov replied.

"What if tomorrow they call you count?..." the president parried.

...Journalists were not admitted to the grounds of the All-Union Scientific Research Institute of Experimental Physics, which resembles a strict-regime zone for prisoners. The president spent almost three hours there instead of the planned 30 minutes. Probably he did not only view examples of nuclear arms. Boris Nikolayevich had something to say to the creator of this center—Academician Yu. Khariton, who had his 88th birthday the previous day. The president congratulated him on his birthday. A.D. Sakharov once worked in this institute. The presidential motorcade stopped at the cottage with a memorial plaque where Andrey Dmitriyevich had lived.

B. Yeltsin was also shown the "Iskra-5" laser thermonuclear plant, whose further development could provide ecologically clean electricity in the future. But scientists said that neither Russia nor America has sufficient resources to create an industrial plant. On the other hand, there are chances of a joint project. The giant plant impressed the president.

As a result of the trip, B. Yeltsin signed a decree on the creation of two Russian federal nuclear scientific centers based on the All-Union Scientific Research Institute at Arzamas-16 and Chelyabinsk-70.

It is not yet known precisely which mechanism for funding the nuclear scientists' center and the city as a whole is proposed in the president's decree. Journalists were not able to be present for long at the president's meeting with scientists and the city's leadership. However, I have learned that the previous day two proposals had been sent to Moscow from Arzamas-16 on its future existence, which reflect the confrontation between two forces in the city. Representatives of the military-industrial complex would like to preserve the former system and retain a "little island of socialism." Representatives of the democratic forces believe that the military department must not dictate living conditions in a city with a population of 75,000. Consequently, the funding and supplying of Arzamas-16 must be carried out in accordance with Russian laws and not with departmental instructions, although the status of a closed city, which will be defined in a special law, will naturally introduce certain corrections.

President B. Yeltsin arrived in Moscow on the evening of 28 February.

Dubna Advances in Subatomic Particle Research

PM0203115992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Feb 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Boris Konovalov report under the "Events and Commentary" rubric: "Dubna Is the First CIS Scientific Center"]

[Text] The renowned Joint Nuclear Research Institute at Dubna is entering a new phase in its development. Previously it received researchers and trained cadres for the socialist camp.

Suffice it to say that the current presidents of the Academies of Science of China, Vietnam, and Mongolia are alumni of Dubna. It is now starting to serve the role of a "crucible" for cadres for CIS countries. The institute has already been joined by Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus, Kazakhstan has submitted an application, and Georgia and Latvia ars showing interest. And researchers from Western countries—the FRG and Italy—are playing an active part in its work.

The current interest in Dubna is also being aroused by the expansion of the research potential of the High Energy Physics Laboratory, headed by Academician A.M. Baldin, which is under preparation. The laboratory's basic instrument was the proton synchrotron, the world's first large accelerator, which was created there even before a method for the strong focusing of a beam of particles was discovered and therefore required a giant magnet. This unique magnet, weighing 36,000 tonnes, is still to be found in the Guinness Book of Records. The cost of electricity consumed by the accelerator was around 1 million rubles [R] in old prices .

The laboratory therefore conceived the idea of creating a modern accelerator utilizing the phenomenon of superconductivity, whereby the current flows without loss and consequently virtually requires no expenditure of electricity. The collective set about creating such an accelerator within 5 years for just R10 million. For those aware that the cost of modern high-energy accelerators is calculated in billions of rubles, this figure sounds simply implausible. Nevertheless, the collective kept its promise.

The technical startup of the nuclotron—an accelerator with a superconductive system capable of accelerating even the heaviest nuclei of elements, up to an including uranium,—took place in the laboratory the other day. And the startup proceeded successfully with the particle beam, which fully confirmed the correctness of the design of the new accelerator, which has incorporated the latest achievements of modern physics and the latest equipment, including many unique inventions by Dubna scientists. Thanks to this, an era of superminiaturization—if one may employ this term in respect to physically huge installations—is ensuing in accelerator equipment.

No special building has been constructed for the nuclotron. Thanks to its small diameter, it has been accomodated beneath the proton synchrotron in the duct once created for the cabling system of the giant accelerator. State of the art equipment enables an interplanetary space vacuum to be created in the narrow space where the particles fly. Powerful units to obtain liquid helium have been created for the cryogenic system, thanks to which the ultralow temperature necessary for the efficient operation of the niobium-titanium superconductive conductors is maintained. Production of superconductive cable has been set up in Ust-Kamenogorsk.

One-quarter of the ring-shaped accelerator has been completely assembled and its efficiency tested. The rest is in the stage of having its magnetic sections aligned, which demands ultraprecision. But the main thing is that all this work is proceeding without detriment to the physicists—the users of the proton synchrotron accelerator. A "bypass" has simply been created which enables particle beams to be directed into the nuclotron for experiments when time permits. The rest of the time experiments continue as before.

Academician A.M. Baldin thinks that the nuclotron will be fully operational this year, and then the proton synchrotron accelerator can become a museum exhibit. And the new accelerator will enable Dubna to remain on the leading edge of work in the sphere of high-energy nuclear physics for roughly another 15 years. Many elements of the nuclotron are of huge value on their own in the world scientific and technology market. And all these innovations have been produced by fantastic experts for, frankly, miserable recompense. Strange as it may seem in our time, for them the honor of the laboratory and the desire to demonstrate the importance of their supreme skill still retain significance.

Dubna's example convincingly shows that our unique centers of fundamental science do not necessarily have to go over to manufacturing saucepans. They can survive through their own knowledge, experience, and supreme skill. And, of course, the viability of our major scientific centers will increase if, like Dubna, they acquire the status of interstate organizations and are financed on a shared basis.

Ukraine Plant To Cease Military Production

LD0203162592 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] The Yuzhniy machine-building plant in Dnepropetrovsk, one of the major military-industrial enterprises of the former USSR, will completely cease military production in the near future, the KHARKOV-NOVOSTI news agency reports. It was here at Yushmash that the production of intercontinental ballistic missiles was developed. At present the enterprise manufactures about 60 types of products for civilian use.

Chief of Staff Ends 6-Day Visit to PRC

LD0203152192 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1307 GMT 2 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Sorokin]

[Text] Beijing, 2 Mar (TASS)— Colonel General Viktor Samsonov, chief of General Staff of the joint Armed Forces of the CIS, has described his six-day visit to China as "useful to both sides." Talking to our country's journalists accredited in Beijing, he cited as among the most significant results of the visit the clarification of positions concerning bilateral cooperation in the military sphere. "An interest in cooperation was expressed by both sides. All the prerequisites to continue it exist," the military chief said.

The general said the purpose of the visit to China was to further develop political decisions and earlier accords on military cooperation between the USSR and the PRC. Along with the need to discuss the topic of exchanges of military delegations, there are questions of reducing Armed Forces in around 7,000 km border between the adjoining states, he said.

China is carefully observing the processes taking place in the West, and the reduction of tension in the relations of the CIS countries with the former potential enemy raises the question: "But what will happen in the East? If the opponent in the West disappears, then what role are we to assume?"

"Therefore", stated the chief of General Staff of the CIS joint Armed Forces, "I tried to show the Chinese side: We are implementing the same policy in the East as we are toward all neighboring states without exception. Over the last two years, the distribution of our troops in the Far East has been reduced by more than 200,000 men, and 12 divisions have been cut back. The withdrawal of the troop contingent from Mongolia is nearing completion, and it is planned that this year alone more than 60,000 personnel will be returned to their homelands, along with thousands of tanks and guns, and about 350 combat planes and helicopters."

"We are not at all indifferent to the fact that our Chinese comrades have not yet reacted to this reduction", said Col. Gen. Samsonov. "In any case, we must try to maintain parity. Undoubtedly our plans are directed toward the continuation of friendship and good mutual relations, but we must think of the security of our states as well."

The fact cannot be ignored that the CIS Armed Forces are presently going through a difficult period, and the Chinese side senses this. However, the chief of General Staff is firmly convinced that "the events taking place in the Commonwealth must not influence our interstate relations." This was also stated by him at his meeting with Jiang Zemin.

No agreements on military-technical cooperation were signed during the visit, Viktor Samsonov said, but certain existing accords were made more specific; for example, one on supplying China with 24 SU-27 aircraft. This and next year, 20 combat aircraft and four combat-trainer aircraft will be delivered. Chinese specialists are already studying this military technology in our country. We are just about to embark on implementation of projects for military-technical cooperation, and I think that this is just the beginning, the chief of General Staff said.

Military cooperation in this area with all states is now organized via the military committee formed under the Russian Government, Viktor Samsonov emphasized. There is a list, coordinated at the United Nations, of countries to which the CIS states can supply military equipment and weapons. Unlike earlier years, this work has now been put on a businesslike, commercial footing. The profits from sales of weapons and equipment go into the state coffers, and partly to defense needs. A certain proportion of payment can be in the form of barter, considering the many difficulties that the joint Armed Forces have with their supplies.

There was no discussion of joint production at the talks that were held, but the Chinese side showed a clear interest in the modern equipment and weapons at the disposal of the CIS. China has been given a list of the weapons which the Commonwealth might sell. There is much that China is interested in, including weapons for land forces, air defense forces, and the Air Force. We are ready for cooperation in various spheres, the chief of General Staff said in conclusion.

Tank Withdrawal Announced

OW0303051792 Moscow Radio Moscow in Mandarin 0200 GMT 3 Mar 92

[From the "News" program]

[Text] The CIS will withdraw 4,000 tanks and artillery pieces from its border with China and China will purchase 24 USSR-made interceptors.

After holding talks in Beijing, Colonel General Viktor Samsonov, chief of general staff of the CIS armed forces, made the above announcement. The Russian foreign trade minister is to arrive in Beijing on 3 March to sign an agreement on economic relations and trade.

World Media Coverage on PRC Summarized

OW0203033892 Moscow Radio Moscow in Mandarin 1300 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Commentary by Mulatov: "On China"; from the "Half an Hour With Wang Xiao" program]

[Text] Some experts in the West predict that a fierce political debate will unfold at the upcoming Chinese National People's Congress and 14th CPC Congress sessions scheduled for this fall. They also point out some of the main issues of the debate. These issues are related in varying degrees to the ongoing policy of deepening economic reform, including the extent and scope of incorporating the elements and methods of the capitalist economy into the Chinese economy. Of course personnel issues will also be discussed. Media units in various countries have made all kinds of predictions in light of the recent comments by Deng Xiaoping. Deng Xiaoping has been quoted as saying that anyone, no matter who he is, should step down if he is against reform. RENMIN RIBAO published an editorial in support of Deng Xiaoping's views. This has stirred repercussions and prompted numerous comments around the world. The BBC commented that until now RENMIN RIBAO had been regarded as the mouthpiece of the conservative forces opposing reform. It also called attention to the fact that not a single paper to date had published Deng Xiaoping' speeches in full. Deng's remarks are now serving a banner advocating reform. Meanwhile, newspapers in China have disclosed the essence of Deng Xiaoping's remarks—that China should not be afraid of capitalism.

Material concerning China's foreign policy published by various countries also focused on Sino-Japanese and Sino-U.S. differences as well as on the strengthening of China's relations with the CIS republics.

Let us start with Sino-Japanese relations. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the normalization of relations between the two nations. All in all, China and Japan have taken flexible and appropriate steps to relieve their respective historical burdens, and have tried to avoid complicating the atmosphere of mutually beneficial cooperation that has developed between the two nations. Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, will visit Japan this spring. The Japanese emperor may also visit China for the first time in history. Many believe the two neighboring nations are developing new relations in a practical attitude. However, a dispute has erupted again over sovereignty over the Diaoyutai Islands. It was touched off by China's promulgation of a document regarding its territory. Reports from Tokyo say the dispute may develop into a serious diplomatic problem between the two nations. We hope that Tokyo and Beijing will find a way to settle their problem.

There was also an anniversary in the relations between China and the United States—the 20th anniversary of the historic Sino-U.S. Shanghai Communique was recently observed. There have been no grand celebrations because there is a wide gap between the two sides with regard to the development of relations, cooperation, and the question of human rights. Foreign observers report from Beijing that trade frictions between them are intensifying, and that China still enjoys a surplus in trade with the United States. As commented on by a reporter, Washington is upset because of the numerous barriers that keep U.S. goods from the Chinese market. It seems that is why the United States has again attached new conditions for the extension of the most-favored-nation trade status for China. Foreign correspondents in Beijing report that the bill passed by the U.S. Senate the other day has aroused China's dissatisfaction; a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman expressed regret over the Senate bill.

An AFP report from Beijing noted that talks between General Samsonov, chief of staff of the CIS joint armed forces, and Chi Haotain, chief of the general staff of China's People's Liberation Army, were carried out in a businesslike atmosphere. However, participants of the talks described the atmosphere as cordial and friendly. It has been reported that the Chinese side set a high value on the fact that the first visit abroad by General Samsonov as chief of staff of the CIS joint Armed Forces was to China. It should be pointed out that Western, as well as many other nations, are highly interested in how relations will develop between China and the CIS republics. More on this subject will be discussed in the coming "Half an Hour With Wang Xiao" program. Today, I would like to point out one point: The results of the talks between the Chinese and Kazakh Governments in Beijing are an achievement for both sides.

UN Grants Membership to Eight CIS States

LD0203175992 Moscow TASS in English 1703 GMT 2 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Mikhail Kochetkov, Yevgeniy Menkes and Nikolay Maslov]

[Text] United Nations, March 2 TASS—The 46th session of the UN General Assembly unanimously granted UN membership to Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Moldova, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Armenia and Turkmenistan on Monday [2 March].

UN Peacekeeping Group To Leave for SFRY

LD2902234992 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2100 GMT 29 Feb 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Not far from Ryazan the formation of the first battalion of our men who will serve under the blue UN flag is nearing completion. These are 900 volunteer paratroopers who will be ready go abroad on 4 March. [Video shows General V.L. Manilov, head of the information directorate of the CIS joint Armed Forces, seated in office]

[Manilov] I would say that these will be real men, highly trained, who will be chosen to make up this battalion. Suffice it to say that the forming of the battalion has been entrusted to the airborne command, and so they probably will be mainly paratroopers, people trained in an all-around way, physically and in military terms, people of endurance and real character, and also of course with a deep understanding of the noble mission which, if the leadership of Russia so decides, will be placed on their shoulders. And I believe they are worthy of carrying out such a peacekeeping mission.

[Announcer] It is expected that the final decision on the use of our servicemen in UN forces will be made by the Russian parliament in the next few days. If such a decision is made, then the volunteers will be sent to Yugoslavia, and it cannot be ruled out that they may undergo their baptism of fire there.

Baltic Republics Seek Close Ties With NATO

LD0103203492 Moscow TASS in English
1805 GMT 29 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Stepovik]

[Text] Bonn, February 29 TASS—Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania seek to establish "the closest possible relations" with NATO, Bernd Wilz, expert on defence problems from the Christian Democratic Union, said today. He has just returned from a tour of the three Baltic Republics. He recalled that the three Baltic states had already become members of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council. However, they continue to look for more ways to join the European security structures.

According to Wilz, the main problems the Baltic Republics are facing today include the withdrawal of units of the former Soviet Army, economic difficulties and the formation of frontier guard services. The stands of the command of the CIS Allied Forces and the leaders of the three republics concerning the troop withdrawal differ a great deal, Wilz pointed out. Thus, Lithuania insists on a period from six to twelve months, while Latvia and Estonia want the troops to be withdrawn "as soon as possible." however, representative of the command of the CIS Allied Forces believe that the troops can be withdrawn no earlier than in five years.

The leaders of the Baltic Republics describe the creation of frontier guard services as one of their priority tasks, Wilz said. In addition, Lithuania plans to create its own Armed Forces, which will consist of self-defence forces and mobile strike groups. The Baltic leaders hope that the West will help them in the implementation of those programmes, and not only in supplying armaments for the future armed units, but also in training officers, Wilz pointed out.

Outcome of NATO Leader's Visit Reviewed

PM0203170392 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
28 Feb 92 p 4

[Pavel Bogomolov report: "What Woerner Did Not Say: Epilogue to NATO Secretary General's Visit to CIS"]

[Text] Manfred Woerner, secretary general of the North Atlantic alliance, showed himself to be a "brilliant diplomat" during his visit to Kiev and Moscow this week. Even the most contentious aspects of Russian foreign policy which have not so far met with particular understanding in the West were characterized at and after his final news conference as highly important and positive.

"Does this apply to the recent initiatives put forward by President Yeltsin in Washington?" I asked Woerner directly. "In particular, to his proposals to transform the U.S. SDI into a joint system of global space security and also to drastically and reciprocally lower the 'nuclear ceilings,' which the White House turned down?"

"You know, these are very important initiatives," Woerner said, immediately parrying my question. "At least some of them are. We are now studying them in depth..."

Well, studying them is a good and even necessary thing to do. However, no hard and fast deadlines have been set for that, have they? Whereas the date for the further movement of the CIS countries along the path of nuclear disarmament is extremely precise and NATO, incidentally, expects it to be observed unswervingly. Having obtained the corresponding accords in Kiev and Moscow, Mr. Woerner proceeds from the premise that all the tactical nuclear arsenals presently outside the Russian Federation will unfailingly be transferred to Russia by the end of July and then destroyed.

At the same time, the secretary general acknowledged that the disappearance of the enemy in the East of the continent also presupposes certain changes in the strategy of the NATO alliance itself. There have been some changes, of course—take for example the creation of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council, which is open to all, the perceptible strengthening of the European basis in NATO, or, for instance, the present humanitarian aid to the CIS countries. In addition, there is the readiness of the Western partners to take part in the conversion of our defense industry. What about the military balance? Is it not time to bring it into line with the new realities?...

Manfred Woerner expressed quite a few favorable words on the mutual understanding reached in Moscow on virtually all the questions under discussion and on the opening of a qualitatively new chapter in the hitherto difficult history of relations between Russia and NATO. But he had hardly listed all his interlocutors in Moscow—they are so different in temperament and in the perception of the social ills that have befallen us—and hardly outlined in brief the specific features of each of those meetings when it became clear that the establishment of the coincidences of position was still not the main outcome of the visit. Especially since we have already become accustomed to accord with the West. It was clearly of far greater importance for the NATO secretary general to test the firmness of the positions of our government as a whole and of some officials in particular.

However, we know hardly anything about Manfred Woerner's conclusions on that score...

NATO Group Adopts 'Pathfinder' Document

PM2802121592 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Feb 92 p 3

[Vladimir Peresada report: "They Call the Document A 'Pathfinder'"]

[Text] Brussels, 23 Feb—A session of the high-level working group set up under the North Atlantic Cooperation Council [NACC] has been held at NATO's Brussels Headquarters. This is the second meeting of this kind within the framework of the NACC—an unprecedented institution, set up last December, for collaboration between the NATO countries and the states of Central and East Europe.

I recall that the working group's task is to prepare for the implementation of the CFE Treaty, which was signed in Paris in 1990. The need for this has arisen because, since the time when the treaty was signed, an entirely new political and geographical reality has emerged in the European part of the USSR. A single state has been replaced by several. This requires, first, the coordination of positions on the treaty among them and, second, an elaboration of positions taking account of this general consensus. That is why the participants in the group's work—along with representatives of the NATO countries, the East European countries, Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, which set up the NACC—include representatives of the republics of the former Soviet Union whose territory is covered by the CFE Treaty.

It was decided at the first session that the treaty would not be revised and would come into force as soon as possible. The communique stressed that the treaty commitments assumed by the former Soviet Union would be carried out by all the new independent states set up within the area covered by the treaty and would be distributed between them in a way acceptable to all parties to the treaty. And it was stipulated that this result would be achieved collectively by the independent states.

The current meeting was prepared and held on the basis of precisely these principles. The result of the exchange of opinions was the adoption of a document defining specific steps en route to the implementation of the treaty.

Called a "pathfinder" document, it assumes that the preliminary preparation stage should be complete by late May. It will culminated in an extraordinary conference, which will adopt the final document recording the decisions reached.

The next stage is the implementation of the treaty. It will come into force 10 days after the "USSR successor states" and all the other parties hand over the ratification documents to the depository country (the Netherlands). Following this, the agreed "minimal amendments" should be immediately made to it.

Just when will the treaty actually "start working"? And what is the most complicated aspect of the preparatory process? I asked F. Shelov-Kovedyayev, Russian first deputy foreign minister and head of the Russian Federation delegation, to answer these questions.

"Obviously, there is a common desire to ensure that all preparations are completed by this summer's CSCE summit in Helsinki. Of course, the preliminary stage is very difficult and requires, in particular, a coordinated approach from our independent states toward arms levels and the other military parameters of the treaty with regard to the former USSR. But—and this is shown by the experience of the past session—I think that we can collectively seek solutions and reach constructive decisions."

Turkish, Iranian Influence on CIS Viewed

LD0203055592 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1212 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Aleksey Chichkin commentary]

[Text] At present, many commentators assert that Tehran and Ankara are competing to gain a prevailing influence in the southern regions of the CIS and in the Moslem autonomies of Russia. The Turkish model is praised because it is, allegedly, less dangerous than Iranian. But this is an over-simplified approach.

Of course, Turkey is a member of NATO and a very important ally of the United States in the region. Washington understands that Turkey's activities in the former USSR will restrain the pan-Islamic, pro-Iranian orientation of broad regions of the CIS. Turkey's well-known social and economic sucesses, its links with the West, and its political pragmatism make the Turkish model more attractive. Therefore, the U.S. and Russian leadership prefer to promote Turkey's influence and, consequently, to oppose Tehran's unpredictable extemporizations.

However, it is well known that Turkey and Iran have been cooperating since 1987 on questions of strategy toward the republics and autonomies of the former Union. Turkish-Iranian cooperation also embraces the policy pursued by Ankara and Tehran in Afghanistan, Palestine, and Kurdistan. A number of Turkish political specialists believe that the ideology and propaganda of present-day Iran are complemented by the economic potential and pragmatic policy of present-day Turkey. Therefore, today one should speak about a sort of division of labor betwen Ankara and Tehran, which are acting in parallel, and not just in the CIS.

In the opinion of Turkish and Iranian experts, the socioeconomic policy of the current Russian Government, apart from its pernicious effects for the Russian nation, is promoting the intensification of separatism in the Russian autonomies and the increasing alienation from Russia of the trans-Caucasian and Central Asian republics. The lack of any competent strategy by the present Russian-speaking cabinet in Moscow with regard to the Moslem world is only exacerbating the contradictions between Russia and the autonomies of the Volga area, the Urals, Siberia, northern Caucasus, and also with Central Asia, Azerbaijan, and Kazakhstan. Therefore, Tehran and Ankara have an interest in a mutual alliance over the extensive territory of the former USSR.

Turkey and Iran are not hindering each other in extending their influence over these regions but are helping each other.

Indeed, a map was published in Turkey recently showing the Black Sea. Almost all of its shores were depicted in the same color—the Turkish color—including the Crimea. Iran has also recently published a map of the Caspian Sea and adjacent territory. Here, too, apparently deliberately, almost everything published there except for Astrakhan was depicted in the same Iranian color. It is noteworthy that in these publications Turkey and Iran have precisely specified the sphere of their interests on the territory of the CIS.

And whereas Ankara invites Russia to participate in Black Sea trade and economic cooperation, Iran comes out for an economic confederation of all territories of the Caspian region without mentioning Russia.

Is this not a reason [passage indistinct] Dzhakar Dudayev proposed setting up an alliance of Caucasian states with the participation of what are at present still the autonomies of the northern Caucasus and without Russian participation. This idea was supported by Turkey and Iran. It is regarded with attention by Tbilisi and Yerevan. Let us note that Turkey and Iran participate in the Economic Cooperation Organization along with Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Azerbaijan. Turkmenistan, Nakhichevan, Iraq, and Afghanistan also intend to join this association.

Reports have also appeared in the Iranian press about a possible political and economic alliance of Moslem autonomies of the Volga region and the Urals. Iran will soon begin supplying oil and gas to Ukraine and Moldova via Turkey but not via Russia.

But what about the Russian Government? For the present, it is keeping quiet. It is stepping up arms exports to Iran and hoping to pacify Tehran with these friendly supplies. There is no harm in hoping, as the saying goes. Meanwhile Turkey and Iran are stepping up their economic and political presence in the Moslem regions of the CIS, including in Russia. The idea of a pan-Islamic economic and political confederation may become a reality in the very near future if the socioeconomic situation in Russia—and in particular in the Volga region and in the Northern Caucasus—does not improve, and if the present ruling team in Moscow does not sort out its relations with all the autonomies with the Arab-Islamic world as a whole.

Turkey and Iran have good grounds to consider that the fate of the USSR and Yugoslavia awaits Russia, if Moscow's political and economic incompetence becomes permanent. In any event, the disintegration of Russia will come as no surprise to Ankara and Tehran.

Shumeyko Cited on Brussels Aid Conference

PM0203104392 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Feb 92 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed article: "So That Grivna Does Not Hinder Ruble"]

[Text] An economic conference whose organizers and sponsors were the Szoros foundation and the EEC Commission was held for three days in Brussels at the center for the study of European politics. The aim of the conference was to help the sovereign states which used to make up the Soviet Union to coordinate their actions in implementing economic reforms, in particular in very important questions such as the introduction of national currencies and foreign trade. The Russian delegation was headed by Vladimir Shumeyko, deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet. Here is how he assessed some results of the conference:

"We have all inherited the consequences of the planned centralized economy when what was cultivated was essentially barter exchange (output was taken from enterprises and in exchange they were allocated raw and semifinished materials and subassemblies) rather than money-exchange relationships, still less financial relationships. Figuratively speaking, the Soviet Union was a single enterprise in which the republics worked as shops and individual production facilities—from those which extracted raw materials to those which assembled output.

"The destruction of the existing ties of a previously unified economy is having a very painful effect on the economy of the present sovereign republics, particularly now in the process of the liberalization of prices. For instance, if one switches to world prices in trade with Belarus, whose economy took shape mainly as a raw material consumer, then the deficit in its trade balance will be about 100 billion rubles, which is tantamount to that state's economic collapse. Russia is continuing to deliver energy resources at reduced prices despite the agreement of the CIS countries which declared the principle of transferring to world prices and is incurring enormous unilateral losses.

"If we take trade with Ukraine, here too Russia has a steady positive balance of trade, which at world prices totals $6.6 billion. On the other hand, a considerable volume of Russian exports and imports is through Ukraine's issuing customs houses and sea ports using trans-shipment bases, storage premises, petroleum tanks, the maritime trade fleet that Ukraine has nationalized, and so forth. There are enough of these examples to understand that the main thing today for all states of the former Union is to implement trade and economic relations on the basis of mutual advantage and to refrain from actions causing economic damage to each other.

"In connection with the fact that Ukraine has officially announced its intention in the very near future to introduce its own national currency (the grivna), within the framework of the Brussels conference talks were held on an informal basis for one-and-a-half days between the Russian and Ukrainian delegations with the active participation of EEC experts. The Ukrainian delegation was headed by V. Grinev, deputy chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet.

"Taking into account the fact that the introduction of its own currency is politically the exclusive right of any sovereign state, those taking part in the talks aimed at reaching 'gentleman's agreement,' a kind of code of conduct when introducing national currencies, whose fulfillment would make it possible to minimize the economic damage to states in the 'ruble zone.' This code was elaborated and submitted in the form of a communique to the other participants in the conference and to the Western press."

During the discussion, the representatives of Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, and Moldova announced the political decision to introduce their own national currencies. The draft rules for mutual relations in foreign trade between the former republics of the Soviet Union, suggested by the EEC Commission, was also discussed and adopted.

We cite the text of the communique prepared in Brussels.

The participants in the Brussels conference from Russia and Ukraine have suggested the following code of conduct when introducing national currencies in their countries:

1. The introduction of its own currency is the prerogative of each sovereign state.
2. The replacement of the former currency with a new one should be implemented in full very rapidly and without discrimination.
3. The rubles removed from circulation should be handed over to the Russian Central Bank.
4. The attitude toward the ruble assets belonging to residents of other countries of the ruble zone will comply with the following principles:
—both sides will pursue a nondiscriminatory policy;
—mutual detriment to both sides will be minimized;
—the final procedure will be established in a separate agreement between the relevant central banks;
—talks should begin immediately and the agreement should comply with both sides' legislation.
5. A country which is introducing a new currency should inform the ruble zone countries of its intentions and of the general content of the program, observing the principle of confidentiality in questions of the precise date and the exchange rate.

Further on Brussels Talks

LD2902134392 Moscow TASS in English 1256 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] Moscow, February 29 TASS—Delegations of the former USSR republics which participated in the talks in Brussels, worked out a "gentleman's" agreement, a sort of code of conduct in the process of introducing national currencies which, if implemented, would make it possible to decrease the economic detriment to the states of the "ruble's zone," according to deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Shumeyko.

He headed the republican delegation at the recent economic conference in Brussels organized by a private fund and the EEC Commission, which aimed at helping republics of the former Soviet Union coordinate their efforts in implementing the current economic reform, specifically, in issues dealing with foreign trade and the introduction of national currencies. Shumeyko commented on the results of the forum in an interview with ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA published today.

A decision to introduce their own currencies was announced by representatives of Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Moldova, he said. In accordance with the communique issued by the conference, Russia and Ukraine proposed to carry out the introduction of national currencies in a "non-discriminatory way" with a view to "minimizing the detriment" to other countries. The communique suggests that before introducing national currencies the countries should inform the other countries of the ruble's zone of their intentions.

The break-up of the long-standing ties of the former Soviet Union's single economy is telling painfully on the economics of the newly sovereign states, Shumeyko pointed out. Thus, Russia has been incurring huge losses in the trade with other republics by continuing to sell power resources at lowered prices despite the agreement among the Commonwealth countries on the switch-over to world prices. But if, for instance, we change over to world prices in the trade with Belarus, its foreign trade deficit will make about 100 billion rubles, which will practically lead it to an economic bankruptcy, he stressed. Russia has also the active trade balance of 6.6 billion rubles in terms of world prices in the trade with Ukraine. Therefore, "the most important thing for all states of the former Soviet Union today is to form trade and economic relations on the mutually beneficial basis and refrain from actions which can do economic damage to one another," the deputy chairman of the Russian parliament believes.

In accordance with the proposal of the EEC Commission, the conference adopted a draft of the regulations on mutual relations in the foreign trade among the republics of the former Soviet Union.

Commonwealth

'Political Pragmatism' Prevails at Conference

PM0203161592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Feb 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Ivan Yelistratov: "The CIS Parliaments Are Doomed to Cooperation"]

[Text] A conference of leaders of Supreme Soviets held in Moscow 27 February demonstrated both the need for parliamentary cooperation and the fear of ending up within the USSR again.

The conference of leaders of the CIS member states' legislative organs proved to be unexpectedly quick, and was concluded far earlier than intended. Nevertheless this cannot be assessed in pure black or white—either failure or complete success. The truth is most probably somewhere in the middle, with a clear tendency toward the "plus" sign.

Straight away in his introductory speech, Russian Parliament Head R. Khasbulatov repeatedly emphasized that the states participating in the conference do not want to create any kind of common center at all, and that each country's national-state interests are a priority for each of the delegations.

It cannot be ruled out that the fact that these interests are a priority ultimately influenced the final results of the conference that was held. At the same time, it must be noted that, strictly speaking, not a single one of the CIS states has yet elaborated a final or even "rough" concept of national-state interests. In this situation any politician, starting a discussion on his country's policy, stresses first and foremost its sovereignty and independence.

The participants in the conference were unanimous in their restrained but optimistic assessments of both the results of the first meeting and the prospects for the future. S. Filatov, deputy head of the Russian parliament, stated that a first step, albeit a timid one, had been taken that day toward the principles of cooperation which have already been developed by the European Parliament, and that there was no point in us reinventing the wheel. And yet the documents signed at the conference did not include an agreement on the creation of a parliamentary assembly—an organ that would serve, loosely speaking, as a coordinating center for legislative policy. Ukraine, Armenia, and Azerbaijan did not agree with the creation of an assembly, explaining their refusal with the reason that it was premature because the functions of such an organ (even if it is purely consultative!) are still uncertain. You cannot disagree with the opinion of V. Kryzhanovskiy, the Ukrainian delegation's spokesman, who said that gearing ourselves to the European Parliament is somewhat premature in our conditions—Europe took more than one decade to proceed along it, and the CIS cannot avoid taking that path, although it would be desirable to walk along it more quickly....

And yet political pragmatism has prevailed over worries about the "loss of sovereignty." All conference participants (apart from Moldova and Uzbekistan) signed the Agreement on Interparliamentary Cooperation in the Legal Sphere, the Agreement on Consultative Conferences of Representatives of Supreme Soviets (Parliaments) of the CIS Member States, the Protocol on Interparliamentary Information and Reference Service, and the Protocol on the Elaboration of Multilateral Acts.

At the concluding news conference, it was stressed that the main prerequisites in taking the first step toward parliamentary cooperation based on equal rights were singled out at the conference. Its content and intensity will be discussed regularly, at consultative conferences.

The next consultative conference is scheduled for March.

People's Deputies Congress 17 Mar Previewed

LD0303111792 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1000 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Telephone report by special correspondent Aleksandr Ruvinskiy]

[Text] A news conference that is being held by a group of former USSR People's Deputies is at this moment ending in the Central House of Journalists. Under discussion is the convocation of a Sixth Extraordinary Congress of People's Deputies which is planned for 17 March. As has been reported, it is proposed to elect an acting USSR president at it. Now, according to preliminary data which members of the organizing committee have at their disposal, up to around 1,000 people's deputies representing 10 republics have agreed to take part in this congress. Those who do not come to the congress, in the opinion of the members of the organizing committee, should be deprived of their powers as deputies so that a quorum at the congress may thus be guaranteed. Umalatova has been elected chairperson of the congress's organizing committee. As was reported at the news conference, it seems that Gorbachev will not take part in the congress. I propose reporting all of the details during the Mayak afternoon panorama, immediately after 1600.

Military

Baltic Troops Withdrawal Timetable Reconsidered

OW0203222192 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1843 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Officers' Council of the Northwestern group of forces has urged Russian President Boris Yeltsin to provide social guarantees for the military leaving the Baltics. The Council submitted to the Russian parliament a request to adopt a legislation banning demobilization of officers who have no housing in the Commonwealth countries. First Vice Commander of the

Northwestern Group of Forces, Lieutenant General Feodor Melvichuk said this at a news conference in Riga March 2.

The Officers' Council called on Commander of the Northwestern group of forces Mironov and Commander-in-Chief of the Commonwealth Unified Armed Forces Shaposhnikov to coordinate the timetable of the withdrawal with the Russian Government with the purpose of ensuring social guarantees.

In the opinion of Melvichuk, troops may be pulled out of the Baltics within 6-7 years.

Chairman of the Officers' Council, Colonel Vladimir Kondalovskiy told the news conference that some military units, such as those stationed in Parnu and Daugavpils, refuse to abandon the Baltics due to the housing problem.

Black Sea Fleet Commander Meets Journalists

PM2802164992 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Feb 92 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Meeting of Black Sea Fleet Commander With Editorial Collective"]

[Text] While in Moscow on official business, Admiral I. Kasatonov, commander of the Black Sea Fleet, met with the KRASNAYA ZVEZDA editorial collective. At the request of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA staffers Igor Vladimirovich spoke about the situation which has taken shape around the Black Sea Fleet and answered numerous questions.

Military Lawyer Hopes CIS Settle Differences

LD0203211692 Moscow TASS in English 1238 GMT 2 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunajski]

[Text] Moscow March 2 TASS—A single coordinating body is necessary to promote the normal work of military law enforcement bodies, according to a senior CIS military official.

"I hope the draft agreement on law enforcement bodies in the CIS Armed Forces, which was worked out by military lawyers jointly with the CIS United Armed Forces Command, will be discussed at a CIS summit in Kiev on March 20", Anatoliy Muranov, head of the department of court martials, told TASS on Monday [2 March].

The reform in the Armed Forces led to a collapse of judicial military system, he noted. The governments of Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan announced that corresponding court martials are now subordinate to them. Uzbekistan is to follow suit, he explained.

Muranov also said he is worried by attacks on military lawyers. Thus, military judge Arkhipov has been taken hostage recently in the city of Gyandzha, Azerbaijan. An armed attack was staged on the court martial of a garrison stationed in Kutaisi, Georgia.

Central Asia

Republics Unite To Solve Aral Sea Problem

OW2802193192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1615 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Aral Sea problem was the center of attention at a meeting Friday [28 February] with the Uzbek President Islam Karimov and Public Health Minister of Central Asian nations and Kazakhstan. Karimov said at the talks that the consequences of the Aral tragedy can be relieved only through cooperation.

The President of Uzbekistan proposed that the problems of the Aral Sea Basin be discussed at a meeting attended by the Presidents of Central Asian Republics, Kazakhstan, as well as their Public Health Ministers and scientists. He stressed that "the solution of the ecological problem is an important political problem". Karimov said that a delay in solving the problem will increase social tensions.

Baltic States

Presidium Discusses Banks, Nuclear Inspections

OW0203222692 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1843 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Presidium of the Baltic Assembly, the interparliamentary consultative body of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, met in Tallinn Sunday [1 March]. According to the Estonian parliamentary press service, the Presidium of the Baltic Assembly approved the idea of creating a Baltic Investment Bank.

It was decided to recommend to the Northern Council to set up a system of international inspection of nuclear arms and atomic energy facilities located in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and other countries of the Baltic region.

On March 2 Chairman of the Baltic Assembly Presidium Aurjmas Taurantas and his deputies Hillar Eller and Marius Hudovskis left for Helsinki to attend the 40th session of the Council of Northern Countries.

Social & Politcal

CPSU Archives To Be Opened to Public

92UN0860A Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
26 Feb 92 Morning Edition p 7

[Article by Ella Maksimova: "Old Square Archives Opened to New Visitors"]

[Text] An event whose reality could not have been believed even a year ago will occur on 25 February. The archives of the CPSU Central Committee, now called the Center for the Storage of Contemporary Documentation, will be officially presented to scientists, Soviet and foreign journalists, the television of many countries, and business people. It opens its research repository on 2 March. The reading hall is located at the same address—12 Ilyinka Street, on the corner of Staraya Ploshchad [Old Square]. Since August, when the archives were nationalized and transferred to the control of the Russian Committee for Archival Affairs, employees of the center have been readying them for free use. The work was complicated by the fact that the party archives were never working archives, and were not intended for foreign eyes. More than 95 percent of the documents are stamped. Everything was made secret, even the distribution of office writing materials by departments.

Thirty million storage items encompass almost 40 years of life of the CPSU headquarters, from 1952 to August 1991.

The commission on declassification, consisting of archivists from the center, succeeded in "freeing" many of the archives from the classification stamp but by far not everything. According to an approximate calculation, about one-third of the archives are now accessible, and the rest will be put into circulation gradually, including Politburo materials for the years 1986-1991, some of which are stored here. Protocols of Central Committee meetings and documents of the Secretariat and a majority of the departments—Ideology and Propaganda, Science, Culture, and Agriculture—are being disclosed.

But, naturally, much of what is classified, such as international documents, requires the opinion of experienced specialists. The adoption of the Law on State Secrets, judging by everything, is still far off. Therefore the center today is in acute need of a commission of experts that could competently and objectively determine the fate of supersecret archives.

The exhibit that was prepared for presentation reflects the boundless breadth of interests of the Central Committee. There was no aspect of the life of the state and the people in which the CPSU would not involve itself, control, and dictate the principles and rules of activity. Whatever display you looked at there was evidence of the all-seeing party investigation.

There is a protocol of a meeting of the Central Committee Secretariat under the chairmanship of M. Suslov: "Concerning the Hostile Attacks at Meetings of the Party Organization of the Thermal Equipment Laboratories of the USSR Academy of Sciences on the Results of the 20th Congress."

A resolution of the Central Committee Secretariat "Concerning the Authorization of a Trip to Italy by the Daughter of F. Shalyapin to Meet with Her Mother."

A resolution of 30 November 1976 "Concerning the Procedure for Burial at Novodevichiy Cemetery."

A meeting of the Politburo "Concerning Measures in Connection with the 73d Anniversary of the October Revolution—On Measures in Connection with the Persecution of the Party of Democratic Socialism (GDR)."

A note of the Department of Culture "Concerning the Behavior of A. Solzhenitsyn."

Information of the Propaganda Department and the Department for Contacts with the Communist and Workers Parties of the Socialist Countries "On the Course of Executing Measures in Connection with the Antonov Affair" (attempted assassination of the pope of Rome).

A letter by V. Vysotskiy addressed to P. Demichev with a request to approve concert activity...

Two million sheets of "loose papers" have not been gone through yet—the current business correspondence of departments taken over after the putsch from desks, safes, and drawers. Then, in the fall, I saw how soldiers were carrying them in bags and bundles, but, as previously, it is not known what was in them. There is no time to read all of this and systematize it.

One more archive is supposed to come into the center—the so-called "Kremlin" archive, the former archive of the president of the USSR. It contains Politburo documents from 1919 to 1985, and personal archives of the most important party figures and general secretaries. It is understandable that the new presidential archive now being formed is absolutely in need of part of the Kremlin archive—the current and timely archive. But the historical archive has to be put into academic circulation as soon as possible after it is reunited with the documents of Staraya Ploshchad.

The collective of the center does not intend to restrict itself to the role of curator of valuables and supervisor of the reading hall. A scientific research sector has been organized. A data bank will be created, and there will be publications. Deputy Director S. Mironenko is expecting implementation in the near future of comprehensive scientific projects.

The archive of the sector of the managerial personnel, which contains data about the nomenklatura of the Central Committee for 70 years, is unique material for trying to understand the phenomenon itself—typical conditions, circumstances, and the biographies of those who were permitted to join the party elite. For a generalized scientific analysis of what the "brain" of the party represented... well-known Moscow historical institutes are being drawn into this work.

Proposals are already arriving from foreign scientific centers. A protocol of intentions has been signed with the U.S. Wilson Center on a joint work "The Cold War." Negotiations are going on with Stanford University, the subject—"International Security and Disarmament Verification." In prospect is the possibility of setting up a research establishment typified by the American Hoover Institute. There is nothing unrealizable in these plans, when you consider what the center possesses, and how great the interest in it is here and in the world.

To be honest, the attention of the public is even frightening to workers of the center for the most prosaic reasons. How to seat the visitors in a hall that is not adapted for scientific work, a former political education study hall of the Central Committee? How to deliver documents from storage through endless corridors, long stairways, and short stairs?

It should be explained here that the center is in charge only of documents. All the rest, including premises, equipment, and the economic management of the president's administration, requires rental payments; moreover, rather unceremoniously. Where will its establishment get them, living as it does on a strict budget? It is difficult to believe that the Russian Government does not understand what cultural-historic riches it has received and what use, spiritual and material, it will bring to society, science, and the prestige of Russia. Thus, can the center really be put in the same category as a leased store or barber shop?

Gorbachev Denies Foundation Opposition Role

PM2802221692 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 29 Feb 92 pp 1-2

[Interview with Mikhail Gorbachev by D. Muratov and V. Fronin on 27 February, under the rubric "Once a Month With Gorbachev"; place not given: "'I Am Not Afraid of the Courts'"—first two paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA's latest meeting with Mikhail Gorbachev, who has agreed to contribute to our newspaper once a month, took place 27 February. Alas, in this interview, as in the previous one, more time was devoted to assessments of the past than to analysis of the present.

However, we hope the reader will understand Gorbachev's motives. But first, we asked Mikhail Sergeyevich to come back to the prediction he made a month ago. Remember: On 1 February he predicted a political crisis unless adjustments were made to taxation policy and the organization of production and unless—most important—CIS institutions of power were created.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Did your prediction come true?

[Gorbachev] Not entirely, I am glad to say. In my view the Russian leadership and president are catching on to the rhythms of real life. By all appearances, a change in taxation policy is planned. And, most important, the government wants to hear different views. At such a crucial point, the significance of feedback between government and society is decisive. Alas, the absence of CIS organs of management is still affecting the economy. Economic ties are being broken. According to various estimates, production has fallen 15 percent. The situation is becoming more complex. The feudalization of the country is beginning with the institution of customs posts. Even regions within Russia itself are retreating into "cocoons," into themselves, although it is hard to imagine anything more ridiculous today than to try to extricate yourself from the crisis by the efforts of your own "rayon center."

The absence of CIS power structures and the lack of policy coordination is affecting everyday affairs—the tractor plants are not producing spare parts, rolled metal production has fallen 25 percent. The resolution of these problems is, in my view, a political matter. After that, let the presidents and premiers take a break and lie up in their well-earned "dens" for two or three months at a time, but at the moment they should be meeting not once a month, but practically every day—launching integration processes and creating a new momentum.

And I repeat: A common organ of power is needed, an interstate court is needed. Look, the EEC takes a long time to achieve consensus, but then its management structures are extremely tough when it comes to ensuring the fulfillment of decisions.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] The first appearance of the rubric "Once a Month With Gorbachev" in our newspaper, judging from the polls, proved interesting both to readers and to our colleagues. But your telephone call to the editorial office puzzled us: You were not sure whether you should continue our conversations, whether they are necessary. Do you not you think you have once again become the target of intrigues, quite probably even among your own entourage?

[Gorbachev] Now there's a question. Well, we agreed I would answer everything....

There are people who try to persuade me that everything connected with me, everything inherent in Gorbachev, belongs to yesterday. But I myself am not the issue! Reaction, having suffered a defeat and now dreaming of returning society to the days before perestroyka, is beginning to compromise all the originators of reforms. This is timed to coincide with the most difficult moments in people's lives. They exploit the tension and seek to see me as the cause of all the troubles. And it is no use oversimplifying things here. "Yesterday's men" are a vengeful breed. Only whereas formerly they were trying to turn us aside from the democratic path, now they are compromising me personally. To hell with them! What am I supposed to be afraid of? The firing squad? The courts? But I am not going to tolerate accusations coming from people who have spent too much time reading German slogans from the 1930's... But that is just one category of people.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] But Mikhail Sergeyevich, you will agree it is a strange picture: The people who, in Manege Square, demanded that you be put on trial by the whole people and elected former prosecutor Ilyukhin as chairman of the "People's Court" by a vote of the whole square, are defending your own ideas: Alksnis and Zyuganov. The ideas of a unified country, a unified army...

[Gorbachev] No! Can't you see that this is an elementary trick? Yes, I was and still am in favor of a unified country, a unified union, but a renewed one, not a union of vassals. Yes, I am in favor of a strong army, but I am not in favor of keeping the arms race, I am in favor of not only the elimination of nuclear weapons, but also the destruction of the barely controllable mountains of stockpiled conventional weapons. They are calling into question everything that has been done in this direction. They accuse me of "giving up" East Europe. So what do you want, tank diplomacy? Janos Kadar once said to me: "The Soviet Union is a big friend." He was silent for a moment, then added slyly: "Very big..." We "hung over" them, we commanded peoples who should have been—and have become!—not subordinates, but partners. And now I am in a strange, bizarre situation: The revanchists demand the exposure of Gorbachev the democrat, and the radicals—the exposure of Gorbachev the partycrat. And their arguments are virtually the same.

But it is striking that the Russian press also wants to condemn the name of Gorbachev from the other side, on other questions. Not one newspaper comes out for a single day without not merely analyzing—analysis is what we need, that is what we all lack, and critical analysis at that, there is no question about that—but compromising Gorbachev only from the other direction. On the one hand, you have treason, ruining the country, and so forth. And on the other you have something different. Gorbachev is not what he claims to be. He's no democrat—he's the same old partycrat in disguise.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] To be honest, we are sick and tired of asking questions about your dachas....

[Gorbachev] But what can I do about it? I'm sick and tired of it too. I repeat, for the benefit of anyone who is still willing to listen: I have no dacha in California, nor in Geneva, nor in Tibet with tunnels leading to China. I never did. Not me, not any of my family. There is the dacha which has now been allocated by decision of the CIS heads of state.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] You didn't privatize the Kremlin?

[Gorbachev] I didn't have time. And I didn't get my hands on a nice little factory or office.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] But Mikhail Sergeyevich, 50 million or so was poured into Foros. Readers suggest that the escalator down to the water there cost $15,000.

[Gorbachev] It was built. Residences have been built and are still being built all over the world. But along with the Foros dacha, shore protection installations were built for the local population, a road was built, a television retransmitter was built, water pipes were laid.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] If only every village had a leader who vacationed there, what would life be like....

[Gorbachev] ...But this kind of construction was stopped because the attitude to it was well known. The greater part of government facilities were handed over to the health service and the Children's Fund. And I didn't steal anything, although there is gossip to that effect at every level.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Mikhail Sergeyevich, since you have brought up the subject of attempts to "compromise" Gorbachev, please tell us: What have you got in your foreign bank accounts?

[Gorbachev] So that's how it is. Through your newspaper, with its huge circulation, I appeal to all the bankers of the world: I give you permission to make available to the press all the information about my foreign investments, to specify the sums and dates of investments. Publish it! That is an extreme method of proving that I have no such thing, although of course that is nothing to be proud of. But the rumors that Gorbachev wants to go abroad, stay there, and live among his savings have now passed all permissible bounds...

(Aleksandr Yakovlev, vice president of the [Gorbachev] Foundation, comes into the office: "Zyuganov and a group of communists are demanding that the Russian parliament stop you from leaving the country—you will evade accountability.") [KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA note]

Well, that's just what we were talking about. They can stop hoping. I'm not running away. I have always lived here, and will continue to live here. Although many people would like me not to come back. That will never happen.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Mikhail Sergeyevich, coming back to the question of money. Surely the general secretary must have known that the modest little sums of 6 billion rubles, 14 million dollars, and 23 million foreign currency rubles had accumulated in the party's special accounts. The money was invested in various firms. Some 500 million was invested in the Profbank [expansion unknown], 687 [million] went to the all-Army Party Committee. And that money is in circulation, producing a profit for the "yesterday's men" you were talking about.

[Gorbachev] I get you. I will try and tell you all I know. Prior to the 28th CPSU Congress we published the party budget, but we did not make public the information on how much money was in the accounts. At the 28th Congress a figure was mentioned—4.8 billion. Obviously that is the money that has been discovered. Yes, we thought about how the party could survive after subscriptions were reduced from 3 to 2 percent. We halved the apparatus and started investing money in commercial structures.

There is also a lot of talk now about our aid to foreign communist parties. Yes, it happened. We were not the only ones who had that practice. But now I can't understand: Why, when they talk about this expenditure, do they not mention the other funds, the funds we brought back to the country? We left Angola and Mozambique, we pulled the troops out of Afghanistan, it was not only money that we saved—the main thing is that we prevented a great many deaths, we brought our boys back. They prefer to forget that side of it.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Is this money now being used in the Gorbachev Foundation? You will agree that you have attracted to the Foundation mighty intellectual forces, both our own and some from abroad. Given a good material basis, the Foundation could basically become a shadow cabinet and prepare for new elections....

[Gorbachev] There is no party money in the Foundation. To be honest, there is very little money at all at the moment. Basically we have only the premises allocated to us by the Russian president. The Foundation is not a shadow cabinet. And I, in my personal capacity, do not intend to be in opposition as long as the government is conducting reforms. One of our main tasks is to help Russia and the Russian leadership by providing analytical materials and predictions. We will not allow the Fund to participate in any games, political or financial.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Are you confident of your entourage? You know there was a report in the press on a bribe-taker close to Gorbachev?

[Gorbachev] I know there are a lot of "sons of Lieutenant Shmidt" [swindlers] traveling around the world passing themselves off as my assistants. In one country we even had to publish a list of my assistants so that the swindlers could be recognized. Alas, I have heard that someone was getting money for arranging meetings with me. But, to be honest, I knew nothing about it....

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Don't you think that at the 23 February 1992 rally the present authorities repeated your mistake of spring 1991? Then and now, the OMON [special-purpose militia detachment] shut off Tverskaya Street and did not allow the demonstrators access to Manege Square.

[Gorbachev] Yes, a mistake was made last year, when we stopped a democratic rally. I will tell you, not by way of justification, but simply for information—pamphlets were put on my desk calling on people to "take the Kremlin" and "organize student riots."

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Printed at the Lubyanka Printing Plant?

[Gorbachev] I do not know, but there were reports to that effect. They proved to be false. Right after that I started seriously thinking about ways to stabilize the situation, and consequently we launched the Novo-Ogarevo process. The present government faces exactly the same problem. You know, on the one hand it actually did act correctly. In addition to the civilized slogans, there were also some blatantly provocative ones at the rally. I got the impression that healthy-minded conservative people who do not want any return to the past but are against any sharp and difficult transition to the future, people representing a sizeable proportion of society and with whom it is necessary to cooperate, were joined at the rally by downright provocateurs driving the people toward conflict and overthrow of the legitimate power. On the other hand, any demonstration of force is fatal for the government. Quest for accord alone!

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] The following ditty was circulating at the rally, pursuing the selfsame line of which we have already spoken: "Why is Gorbachev not on trial?
"Who is putting the blocks on,
"Or could it be that Bush
"Is still refusing permission?
"The stores will have everything,
"Whoever sees it will gasp with surprise!
"If truth be said, the ones to gasp
"Will be those who have not breathed their last..."

[Gorbachev] I am ready. If society needs it, let there be a trial. I have answered your question, and I will tell the court: I thought and still think that perestroyka was tough but necessary, and it had to be launched.

They will not succeed in turning me into an "extremist." Right now, I have said this and I repeat it, they are afraid to see me appear in print. I have only just learned that some strange changes are taking place among my bodyguards. The number of bodyguard officers among the 20 allocated men has been reduced, but the number of outside guards has been increased.

They kept silent about the USSR president's position in December, and they are trying to distort my position now. One letter advised me to shoot myself, but hundreds of letters support me. For as long as I think that I can be of use to the country, I will not keep silent. Let there be a trial, not a kangaroo court. Shchelokov tried to pressure me back in 1974, when I started sacking bribetakers from the militia in Stavropol. Even while I was member of the Politburo they were trying to get hold of testimony against me—one deputy minister of internal affairs told me this before his death—and even came up with a criminal case trying to discredit me, but nothing happened. These people did not get anywhere. Do they want to drive the people back into the same persecution? There should be no social revenge. I will remain in the country to the end, under any circumstances.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] How can the Foundation realistically influence the situation in the country?

[Gorbachev] Through public opinion. Through recommendations. Through the press which now occasionally frightens me with its conformism. You should not smoke in a gas station, but any analysis of the situation must nonetheless be honest. It is necessary to think about cooperation between the CIS and the European states, about transition from the common European home to the idea of European confederation. Our civic duty is to help solve Russia's problems. President Yeltsin helped get our work off the ground, we would like to see representatives of the Russian authorities on the Foundation's Council.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Following the Foundation's launch, you will be making your way abroad....

[Gorbachev] I am going to Germany on invitation from the president and chancellor. As a matter of fact, there are many invitations. There are offers from the king of Spain, Premier Gonzales, Italy's Prime Minister Andreotti. I will not list them—numerous invitations. I deem it necessary to continue my sociopolitical activity within the framework of advancing the new political thinking and of course, domestically speaking, to promote reforms and democratic transformations. This was actually said to Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin in reply to his direct question: Do I plan using the Foundation as a base for creating an opposition movement or party? Now all this is being twisted. I have no such goals. The Foundation's slogan—and I want to say this at the launch—is: "Toward a New Civilization!"

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Our correspondent V. Karkavtsev reported from Arkhangelsk that there are strict orders to burn Gorbachev's books—only the covers are left.

[Gorbachev] What can you do....

New Movement Takes Up Cause of Emigrants

OW0203214992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1612 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The movement "Migratsiya" announced at its founding session that it will take into its own hands the fate of all citizens of the CIS who have had to flee their native stomping grounds.

In an interview with "Interfax" the initiator of the meeting, chairman of the social committee "Citizen Assistance" Sergey Strelnikov said "the new movement aims to unite the efforts of dozens of national societies, state institutes, and commercial structures to solve the problems refugees face". Strelnikov said that in today's conditions when "settling one person in a rural area costs 2 million rubles and a village of one thousand homes costs 2 billion dollars it is shortsighted to bet only on funds from the Russian Government".

Tatiana Regent, chairman of the committee on immigration in the Russian Ministry of Labor said "Russia is experiencing a maximum influx of refugees". Since 1989, according to her data, 222 thousand officially registered refugees have arrived on Russian soil and hundreds of thousands of unregistered migrants.

Price Hikes, Shortages Cause Republics Concern

OW0303085092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0747 GMT 3 Mar 92

["Viewpoint" feature dated 2 March—transmitted via KYOD

[Text] **RICE HIKES AND SHORTAGES STILL MAIN PROBLEMS**

According to the Data news agency, a February 8-18 opinion poll by the National Public Opinion Studies Center among 1635 respondents in Russia, 517 in Ukraine and 498 in Kazakhstan were offered to answer the question: What problems of our society worry you most of all?

	Russia	Ukraine	Kazakhstan
		(%)	
price hikes	62	73	77
shortages	50	51	42
growth of crime	37	36	36
unemployment	22	31	35
ethnic conflicts	22	17	23
moral and cultural crisis	22	15	10
weakness of state	21	14	11
bad ecological situation	15	16	9
collapse of economic ties	13	13	12
threat of dictatorship	6	3	4
break-up of socialist ideals	3	13	7

Polls taken last May showed that the same problems dominated then: price increases, shortages, growth of crime. Notably, in February the fear of unemployment moved to the fourth position leaving behind economic concerns, ethnic conflicts, moral and cultural crisis and weakness of state. The fear of growing crime has a bit strengthened.

A number of people considering the break-up of socialist ideals the main problem of the society has grown in Kazakhstan and Ukraine (in Ukraine - 6 times).

Poll Questions Private Enterprise Aspirations

OW0303085892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0628 GMT 3 Mar 92

["Viewpoint" feature—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] **ON PRIVATE ENTERPRISE** Last January the National Public Opinion Studies center took a survey among 989 respondents in Russia, 592 in Ukraine, 298 in Belarus, 388 in Estonia, 167 in Georgia, 88 in Kazakhstan, 81 in Uzbekistan, the Data news agency reports.

Among other questions they were offered to answer if they would like to start a business, to own a plant, a workshop, cafe, store or some other enterprise.

	already have	**would like to**	**do not want**
	own business	have	to have
Russia	1	31	9
Ukraine	less than 1	28	49
Belarus	less than 1	15	77
Estonia	3	34	45
Georgia	5	45	32
Uzbekistan	2	26	46
Kazakhstan	3	30	49

Responses "Have no opinion" omitted.

The most popular businesses are:

In Russia: public restaurants, retail stores, business mediation, health care, cultural sphere, education, leisure.

In Ukraine: public restaurants, food industry, health care, cultural sphere. Nearly the same picture is in Belarus.

In Estonia the most popular business is the manufacturing of equipment.

In Georgia the interest in the development of private construction is growing.

Agriculture

Chances 'Good' for Successful Winter Harvest

OW0203214892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1612 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia and other Commonwealth states stand a good chance of having a successful winter harvest in 1992, approximately ⅓ of which is grain. The Gidrometcenter told "Interfax" that only 7% to 9% of the winter crops will be in bad shape by the beginning of the plowing season; on the average in the last five years bad crops were at 11.6% in the spring and in Russia 12.9%. Experts draw attention to the fact that the soil moisture content is close to the norm and heavy precipitation is expected in March as well—at least in the western regions of the nation.

Media

TASS Carries Press Review for 3 Mar

LD0303061692 Moscow TASS in English 0517 GMT 3 Mar 92

["Press Review"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow March 3 ITAR-TASS—Analysing on Tuesday [3 March] a memorandum of the Russian Government, "Guidelines of the Economic Policy of the Russian Federation," NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA points out that "tough budgetary limitations imposed by the government largely at the expense of local budgets threaten to bring about a tax war in the spirit of the last year's war between republics and the centre."

Citing the opinion of economists, SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA forecasts a six-to-eight-fold increase of retail prices after the government lifts control on prices for consumer goods, services and fuel in March of this year.

PRAVDA publishes an interview with KGB Major General Aleksander Sterligov, co-chairman of the Duma (council) of the Russian National Assembly, a "mass national-patriotic movement," that was recently set up in Russia.

"We are warning: our fatherland is in danger," Sterligov maintains. "The life of every Russian person, every family both outside Russia's borders and within Russia itself is in danger. If nothing changes within a year there will be real famine...It is absolutely clear that the current government both in composition and practical actions does not correspond to Russia's interests."

"I would not have been able to work in Boris Yeltsin's current team," St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak said in an interview with KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA. "The choice of people and a certain policy in forming structures are unacceptable to me. I believe that most serious mistakes are being made in this sphere. Duplicating and parallel apparatuses are being formed—the president's administration and governments with unseparated and undefined functions. There are very few new people. Things have become even more difficult than previously, when it was necessary to manoeuvre between the Union and republican governments."

Commenting on the diplomatic activity outside the Commonwealth of Independent States by heads of its member-countries, PRAVDA writes:

"Home 'foreign policy' has been put on the sidelines, despite being considered a number one priority. Apparently, not all presidents are certain that the Commonwealth will withstand the test of time."

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA publishes an interview with First Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Border Forces Colonel General Yuriy Shatalin, who until recently occupied the post of USSR Interior Ministry forces commander.

Shatalin said that the deployment of Commonwealth troops in the area of armed conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh—in case this is necessary—should be accompanied by several conditions—the cessation of the internecine war there, participation in the operation of volunteers only and public support for the action.

Asked about the "fate of interior troops," Shatalin said: "We have become second-class people, needed by no one. We become needed only when blood has been shed. When it is necessary to defend either the motherland, or someone's honour somewhere, then we are remembered."

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA presents to readers a new combat helicopter of the design bureau, named after Kamov, known in NATO under the codename "Hokam."

"Helicopter-builders have done all that depended on them: created an excellent combat machine, put it into mass-production," the newspaper writes. "Much will now depend on those means that will be allocated for the procurement of the combat hardware."

International Affairs

Japan's Nakasone Meets With Yeltsin in Moscow

LD0203124392 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1120 GMT 2 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow, 1 Mar (TASS)— The major issue of the talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin was a peace treaty between Russia and Japan, former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone told journalists after his meeting with President Yeltsin today. "I proposed settling the problem by the end of the century, and President Yeltsin agreed", he said.

Yasuhiro Nakasone arrived in Moscow on Sunday [1 March] at the invitation of the Russian parliament's Committee for International Affairs and Foreign Economic Relations and was received by the Russian president. The former prime minister expressed the hope that Yeltsin's forthcoming visit to Tokyo will boost further progress in bilateral relations. He also said that he has consented to be a member of a non-governmental cooperation council being set up at the Russians' intitiative.

Yasuhiro Nakasone pointed to the desirability of a currency stabilization fund and a trade promotion fund and advocated that Russia be included in cooperation among the countries bordering the Sea of Japan. He went on to say that he has conveyed the gratitude of Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa for the message received from the Russian president. Nakasone added that he agreed with the assessment in that message of the two countries as friendly partners and even potential allies.

Discuss Peace Treaty

OW0203151892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1432 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] Moscow, March 2 KYODO—Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Monday [2 March] expressed his desire to expedite peace treaty negotiations with Japan when he visits Tokyo in mid-September.

In an hourlong meeting with former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone at the Kremlin, Yeltsin showed his strong interest in concluding a peace treaty by the year 2000, Japanese officials said.

Nakasone urged the Russian leader to accelerate the ongoing working-level treaty negotiations, they said.

Although supportive, Yeltsin said it would not be a good idea to raise the territorial dispute at this time since the Russian people are preoccupied with food shortages and other urgent domestic issues, according to the officials.

Yeltsin added that the fall may be a more opportune time to advance the peace treaty talks.

Nakasone and Yeltsin both expressed their hope that the September visit to Tokyo will help move bilateral relations forward.

Japan has said the territorial dispute over the four Russian-held islands off eastern Hokkaido must be resolved before concluding a peace treaty and entering into full bilateral relations.

The islands—Kunashir, Iturup, Shikotanto, and the Habomai group of islets—were taken by the former Soviet Union at the end of World War II.

On the dismantling of nuclear weapons in the former Soviet Union, Nakasone said Japan is ready to extend both technical and financial support.

Yeltsin expressed his gratitude, pointing to the difficulty of storing plutonium safely, the officials said.

Nakasone also welcomed Yeltsin's offer to join an international intellectuals' meeting to discuss Russia's democratization and shift to a market economy.

Yeltsin has urged such dignitaries as former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and former French President Giscard d'Estaing to join the meeting scheduled to be inaugurated in late April.

Nakasone will proceed to Berlin for a meeting of world leaders Thursday [5 March] to discuss global security in the post-cold war era.

More on Talks

LD0203213492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Report by correspondent V. Beletskiy on 2 March meeting between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone in Moscow—from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Former Prime Minister Nakasone, an influential Japanese political figure, started his visit to Moscow today. He met with Russian President Boris Yeltsin. In connection with this visit, Japanese observers assume that the issue of the northern territories will be a main subject of Nakasone's conversations in Moscow. But one must admit that Japanese ruling circles have ceased to rigidly link this act with giving us economic aid and supporting our interests in international organizations.

[Beletskiy] The sides discussed the problem of a peace treaty between Russia and Japan. According to Nakasone, the Russian president accepted his proposal to settle this issue before the end of the century. For the time being, the guest agreed with Boris Yeltsin's view of our countries as friendly partners and even as potential allies.

In the course of conversation trade and economic issues were also examined, inter alia, the possibility of setting up a stabilization curency fund and a trade invigoration fund, as well as the issue of including Russia in cooperation between the countries of the Sea of Japan.

Yasuhiro Nakasone expressed the hope that the visit by the head of the Russian state to Japan scheduled for September will boost the development of bilateral relations.

Shevardnadze Meets Nakasone

OW0303120592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1152 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] Moscow, March 3 KYODO—Former Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze warned Tuesday [3 March] about a possible collaboration between former Communist Party members and the military, Japanese officials said.

Shevardnadze issued the warning in a meeting with former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone.

Shevardnadze told Nakasone that democratic forces in Russia are powerful but not unified or systematic.

"There is a danger of a tie-up between former Communist Party members and military officers, and the situation in the future is fluid," Shevardnadze was quoted as saying.

Shevardnadze said each republic in the CIS may have its own armed forces, and that the relationship among CIS nations will not always work smoothly.

Nakasone proposed setting up an international organization to monitor nuclear disarmament when the nuclear nonproliferation treaty is extended in 1995.

Shevardnadze agreed with Nakasone and urged the United States to stop its nuclear testing, the officials said.

Nakasone, who has been in Moscow since Sunday [1 March], will proceed to Berlin on Thursday [5 March] for a meeting with world leaders who will discuss global security in the post-Cold War era.

Iranian Economics Minister Arrives for Talks

LD0203182792 Tehran IRNA in English 1421 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] Moscow, March 2, IRNA—Iranian Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs Mohsen Nourbakhsh arrived here Monday [2 March] for a three-day visit and talks with Russian officials.

Talking to IRNA upon arrival, Nourbakhsh said a barter trade agreement and another for export of natural gas to Russia will be reviewed and revised during his stay here.

Economic relations and Iran-Russia cooperation in various fields incuding trade, transportation and development projects are to be dicussed between officials of the two countries, he said.

Nourbakhsh is heading a high ranking delegation to Moscow which includes deputies and advisors of the Oil, Roads and Trasportation Ministries, the Central Bank and the managing director of the Islamic Republic Air Lines.

Talks Begin

NC0303075992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] The first round of talks between our minister for economic affairs and finance [Dr. Mohsen Nurbakhsh] and the Russian foreign economic relations minister was held in Moscow last night. During this meeting, at which members of the delegation accompanying Nurbakhsh and some officials of the Russian Foreign Economic Relations Ministry were also present, the settlement of the agreement between the former Soviet Union and Iran was assessed. The talks will continue today.

Nurbakhsh arrived in Moscow at the head of a high-level delegation yesterday.

Barter Trade Agreement Reached

LD0303075892 Tehran IRNA in English 0612 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] Moscow, March 3, IRNA—The visiting Iranian Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs Mohsen Nurbakhsh discussed Tehran-Moscow economic relations in the first round of talks with Russian Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Petr Aven here Monday night [2 March].

The meeting was also attended by the Russian economic officials. The two sides worked out the details of a barter trade agreement between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the newly-independent Republic of Russia.

Heading a high-ranking economic delegation, Nurbakhsh arrived here Monday on a three-day visit. He is scheduled to hold talks with Russian officials on Tehran-Moscow cooperation in trade, transportation and development projects.

Yeltsin, U.S. Ambassador Strauss Meet

LD0203183392 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1631 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] Moscow, 2 Mar (TASS)—A conversation took place today between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and U.S. Ambassador Robert Strauss, reports the president's press service. Questions connected with Russian-U.S. relations, and also certain international problems, were discussed during the conversation.

U.S. Ambassador on Efforts To Attract Aid

OW0203225892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1925 GMT 2 Mar 92

[From the "Soviet Business Report;" transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Robert Strauss, U.S. ambassador to Russia, commented during a recent unofficial meeting with Moscow journalists that the U.S. could help attract serious finances to revive the Russian economy in 1992.

He said that America is presently experiencing serious economic difficulties, and that the American government should consider these problems when determining its foreign policy. According to the American ambassador, however, the U.S. will use its influence to bring financial aid to Russia. The United States is also planning on consulting with its allies concerning financial aid to Russia, Strauss remarked.

The main condition through which Russia could expect serious financial aid, according to Mr. Strauss, would be by balancing the Russian government's fiscal policy. Strauss estimates that the present fiscal policy held by Yeltsin's government will lead to a reduction of the budget deficit and ruble stabilization. In this case, Russia could count on Western aid in the form of a stabilizing fund while the ruble becomes convertible.

Regarding the question of attracting Western investors to Russia, Strauss emphasized that all of the essential pre-conditions for investing have not yet been created in Russia, in the first place, the ability to remove capital. Strauss feels that foreign investors should receive concrete guarantees for their activity, at least for the next 5-10 years. According to Strauss, Russia may count on a stream of investments if she creates more profitable conditions for investment than other countries have. Most foreign investors, Strauss feels, prefer to invest their profits back into Russia.

Gates' Testimony to House Panel Reported

PM0203135592 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Feb 92 p 4

[Correspondent Vladislav Drobkov report: "Boris Yeltsin Is 'Almost Irreplaceable' and Capable of Compromise in Order To Remain in Power. But Even So, CIA and Pentagon Continue To Keep Tabs on Us"]

[Excerpts] Washington—In the U.S. press, Congress, and the administration the debates continue unabated about how durable the position of the present Russian Government and President B.N. Yeltsin is. Recent events in the CIS and the 23 February demonstration in Moscow have prompted many observers here to return to the problem of the stability of the Russian "reform government" and the prospects for the success of these reforms themselves in the foreseeable future. [passage omitted]

Consequently there was considerable response here to the remarks made by CIA Director Robert Gates that the Russian President has become "almost irreplaceable" for the continuation of the economic and political reforms and that he has the ability to make the necessary compromises in order to preserve his position. "Yeltsin is the most skillful politician in the country today" and can remain in power for the foreseeable future, the CIA director noted when addressing hearings at the House Foreign Affairs Committee on 25 February.

Despite such a positive assessment of the Russian leader, Robert Gates stated that instability in Russia and other former Soviet republics remains the main threat to U.S. security. He expressed apprehension over the "return of totalitarianism."

"I think it would be premature to turn our gaze away from a country which possesses 30,000 nuclear warheads," Gates stated. In his words, the United States expects that the CIS republics affected by strategic arms reductions under the START treaty will not be able to meet all their commitments by the prescribed date. In Gates' view, however, this is due to unforeseen difficulties rather than a deliberate desire to avoid the provisions of the treaty.

Judging by Robert Gates' testimony in congress, the CIA is certainly not "averting its eyes" from what is happening in the former Soviet Union. Nor is the Pentagon paying any less attention to us. As the recent collision between the U.S. and Russian submarines in Russian territorial waters showed, the Americans are still spying on yesterday's potential enemy. It is a case of carry on spying despite the fact that the presidents have begun calling each other "my friend George" and "my friend Boris." After the incident with the submarine Baton Rouge, which recently returned to base in Norfolk, Pentagon representatives have stated that they intend to keep tabs on Russia. [passage omitted]

...It seems that the principle of "trust but verify," a principle so beloved of the Americans, has been transferred from Gorbachev to Yeltsin. And is being increasingly forgotten by us. Even though American presidents say it in Russian.

Arms Sales to Cuba Reportedly To Cease

LD0303093592 Moscow TASS in English 0739 GMT 3 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Kuchko]

[Text] Tokyo, March 3 TASS—Russia will cease arms sales to Cuba, but believes Taiwan is a possible buyer of Russian-made weapons, according to Sergey Glazyev, the Russian first deputy minister for foreign economic relations.

Russia quit the practice of supplying arms according to political priorities and is switching to a purely commercial basis in arms trade, he told the Japanese ASAHI newspaper on Tuesday. All armaments will be sold only for hard currency, he added.

"We are not going to export armaments to that country (Cuba), as it has no hard currency to pay for the deliveries", Glazyev said. Libya, Syria and Iraq should first pay the debts they owe to the former Soviet Union, he stressed, adding this will be "a precondition for the resumption of arms sales to these states".

Taiwan is a possible importer of Russian-made weapons. The island has already probed through third countries into a possible purchase of Russian warships, missiles and firearms, according to Glazyev. "Taking into consideration the relations with China we do not licence arms sales to Taiwan", he said, but added that "if the licence is issued the volume of armaments exported to Taiwan may exceed that of military shipments to China and total several billions of U.S. dollars".

Kozyrev Comments on Results of African Tour

LD0203220292 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Report by correspondent V. Martynov on Africa tour by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, including recorded remarks by Kozyrev on board aircraft; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has visited the African continent for the first time. It was not by chance that the first country on his trip was Angola—many years of cooperation made this a must. The extremely intensive nature of the schedule of his trip meant that events had to be crammed in. In one day Andrey Kozyrev held talks with an Angolan delegation, met the president of Angola, and took part in a session of the joint military-political commission. During the talks agreement was reached on the liquidation of the old Soviet mission in Angola. Cooperation will now be continued not on an ideological but an economic basis. As far as Angola's debts are concerned, the search for mutually beneficial ways to settle this problem will be continued.

The fact that Russia has resumed diplomatic relations with the Republic of South Africa [RSA] after more than three decades has already been stated. We draw your attention to the fact that the official resumption of these relations with one of Africa's wealthiest countries was stated only after Andrey Kozyrev's meeting with Nelson Mandela. Just one point: In gaining new friends one must not lose sight of old ones. Dr. Mandela also expressed this realization.

In Egypt, during the meeting with President Mubarak, to which, as is the custom on the Egyptian side, journalists were not permitted, and the talks with Foreign Minister Moussa, questions of bilateral relations were discussed. It was in Cairo that Andrey Kozyrev was received at his residence by Libyan Foreign Secretary al-Bishari at the latter's request. Bilateral relations were also discussed. In addition, Andrey Kozyrev expressed Russia's uncompromising position with regard to terrorism. So, what were the results?

[Kozyrev] During that time we not only did not quarrel with old friends but strengthened relations with them on a new basis—say, with Angola, or with Egypt. However, we also discovered a new one—South Africa. More than 50 percent of Africa's entire industrial potential lies in that country. So we have brought back with us from this trip a very serious new economic partner.

Assesses Talks in Cairo

LD0303105892 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 2 Mar 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has concluded his African tour with a visit to Egypt. During his tour he first visited Angola and the RSA. Here is a report by our correspondent in Cairo.

[Correspondent K. Gerasimov] The Russian minister gave his general assessment of talks in Cairo after meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

[Kozyrev] I think it is very important that cooperation and the fact that Russia and Egypt were and will remain the closest and, perhaps, the dearest friends in this region, have been confirmed. This relates to the Near East, to a search for solution to the Near East situation, and, speaking more broadly, to the situation in the Persian Gulf. On the whole, this is our strategic course, and I am very grateful to the president for his invitation to Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin to visit Egypt, which was confirmed. For our part, I confirmed our invitation to President Mubarak to find time and visit Russia and also to Foreign Minister Musa to come to Moscow on an official visit, if there is such a possibility.

Churkin Reviews Kozyrev African Tour

LD0203213392 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1330 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Statement by Vitaliy Churkin, head of Information Directorate of Russian Foreign Ministry, at news conference on Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's visit to Angola, South Africa, and Egypt, in Moscow on 2 March—recorded]

[Text] This visit demonstrated Russia's continuing interest in strengthening and developing ties with African countries. Rejecting as it does isolationism, and being not indifferent to what is happening in the developing countries, Russia will value, seek and find friends and partners irrespective of geography. Basing itself on the historic ties we have evolved with many countries in the region, proceeding from its responsibilities as a permanent member of the Security Council, jointly pursuing activities for peace with other members of the world community, and seeing in that continent a prospective economic partner, Russia intends to make its presence in Africa permanent and constructive.

During our visit to Angola we became convinced that the process for a settlement in that country, despite understandable difficulties, is making successful progress overall. The first positive advances achieved thanks to the halting of the armed conflict are there to be seen. Practically all political forces in Angola are approaching the coming elections under slogans of democracy and market economics, recognizing that experimenting with other social models leads to impasse. Russia will in the future be cooperating with Portugal, the United States, and the United Nations in promoting the success of a settlement in Angola.

In the conditions of peace, our relations with Angola are taking on a new look. An accord was reached on closing the former Soviet military mission. This does not mean, however, that we are shunning normal cooperation in the military and technical sphere in peaceful conditions. We see great opportunities for developing mutually beneficial economic cooperation with that country, which is one of the richest in Africa. It is our view that the existence of a debt should function not as a negative factor but as a positive one in Russian-Angolan relations and provide an impetus for business ties to take off.

In Pretoria a joint statement on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of South Africa and the Russian Federation was signed. An accord was also reached to open consulates general in Cape Town and St. Petersburg. We approached the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Republic of South Africa on the basis of the premise that such a step is being taken in the context of efforts for the ultimate elimination of the system of apartheid and will facilitate endorsement of the principles of democracy and human rights in southern Africa.

The visit provided not only a start to natural contacts with the De Klerk government—which is conducting a policy of dismantling apartheid—but also the strengthening of our relations with democratic anti-apartheid forces in the republic, which are symbolized and led by Nelson Mandela. There is also significant potential for Russian-South African economic ties. It is possible for Russia and the Republic of South Africa to cooperate successfully as two major mining powers as well as in several other fields.

Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev's visit to Cairo confirmed Egypt's standing as one of Russia's key Near East partners. Both countries attach enhanced importance to further development of their relations. The exchange of views regarding the process of a Near East settlement—which remains, as before, at the center of Moscow's attention in its capacity as co-initiator and cochairman—proved useful. Russia and Egypt are of one mind in their non-acceptance of extremism in all its manifestations. Joint action between them—that is, between Russia and Egypt—will be a stabilizing factor both in the Near East and beyond it.

Churkin Denies Nuclear Scientists in Iraq

OW0203193092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1612 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Information Department Chief of the Russian Foreign Ministry Vitaliy Churkin has said that the declaration made by the Lithuanian Ambassador to the United States Stasis Lozoraitis saying that the Kaliningrad region must belong to Lithuania is provocative. The Ambassador was interviewed by a correspondent of an official newspaper, "Lietuvos Aidas." Speaking in Moscow on March 2 Vitaliy Churkin said the Russian Government expected explanations from Lithuania after one of its officials expressed concern about the "emergence of a Moscow-Bonn axis."

Vitaliy Churkin refuted the statement that over 50 former Soviet nuclear scientists were working in Iraq. He said that none of them had left the country yet and that Russia had never cooperated with Iraq in its nuclear arms programs.

Shakhray on Troop Withdrawal From Baltics

PM0203122492 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Feb 92 p 1

[Report by unidentified "our correspondent" from Moscow under the "Direct Line" rubric: "Schedule for Troop Withdrawal From Baltics Will Be Generous, Sergey Shakhray Believes"]

[Text] In the latest edition of the Russian Television program "Bez Retushi" ["Nothing Retouched"], journalists from a number of Moscow newspapers met with Sergey Shakhray, vice premier of the Russian Government and Russian Federation state counselor on legal policy. As always, each of the participants in the program was able to conduct a brief interview and clarify the interviewee's views on particular problems.

Since Sergey Shakhray is head of the Russian delegation at talks with the Baltic states on the withdrawal of the troops of the Northwestern Group, the KRASNAYA ZVEZDA representative's question dealt with that issue. Sergey Mikhailovich stressed in his replies that only the date of the start of the withdrawal of troops has been determined, and that the entire process will take place in the context of expediency and depending on the factors that influence this process. One binding factor is, of course, the provision of reliable social guarantees for servicemen and their families.

The vice premier also answered a question about the fate of S. Parfenov, former staffer of the Riga OMON [special-purpose militia detachment]. The subject was the rumors that Shakhray had held talks in Riga on Parfenov's release. "No," Sergey Mikhaylovich replied, "I held no official talks, there were private conversations of a consultative nature."

Baltic-Russia Guards Need Status Clarified

PM2802165592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Feb 92 p 3

[Captain 2d Rank V. Ivanov "Direct Line" report: "Border Under Two 'Padlocks'—Baltic and CIS. Meanwhile the Legal Issue Remains Unresolved"]

[Text] Kaliningrad—On the border between Kaliningrad Oblast and Lithuania a Lithuanian border protection post has appeared in the Nida area (previously protection functions here were carried out by Territorial Protection Ministry men). There is no border post in the conventional sense as yet. The necessary installations are yet to be built. The service is manned by graduates of a border protection department training center which has been set up in Snieckus. Incidentally, the post's senior officer noted that service on the border of Kaliningrad Oblast and Lithuania proceeds without excesses despite the fact that up to 250 cars pass through the Nida post daily.

At the same time it is known that the Military Council of the Baltic Border District (the administration of the district is in Riga) has appealed to the Russian leadership to take CIS border guards under Russia's jurisdiction until the district's fate is decided at intergovernmental talks between delegations of Russia and the Baltic Republics. This, in the opinion of the Military Council, will help to avoid confrontation between border units operating in the independent Baltic states and the Baltic Border District. At Riga airport, for example two border services are operating simultaneously—one falls under the jurisdiction of the Latvian Republic and the other under the CIS.

So it is obvious that the questions pertaining to border protection need to be resolved. As "national" border posts are springing up on the borders between Baltic countries and Russia, there is therefore a need for Russian border troops.

Presidential Adviser on Nagorno-Karabakh

OW0303084292 Moscow Central Television First Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1900 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Interview with Galina Vassiliyevna Starovoytova, national policy adviser to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, by Petr Orlov and Irina Zaytseva at the studio—live]

[Text] [Orlov] This is Galina Vassiliyevna Starovoytova—you probably recognize her—and we were just discussing the issue of national policy. Galina Vassiliyevna discusses these issues with the president because she is Boris Yeltsin's adviser, specifically in this field. We were asking Galina Vassiliyevna why do we and many other journalists have this strong feeling that you are always traveling throughout the world when, as we understand, national policy is what is happening inside Russia—or is that not so?

[Starovoytova] I certainly travel throughout the world. I have just returned from St. Petersburg, and I am often in Yerevan, my other electorate; I was recently in Belarus, where I met with President Shushkevich; not long ago, I was in Tatarstan and in northern Caucasus; I have been to Davos at the World Economic Forum; and once or twice a year, I visit the United States or elsewhere.

The facts are that the time of closed politics is past and that this is what we determined with Boris Nikolayevich when we discussed the sphere of this activity—that we must enact the same principles in our national policy inside Russia as outside it. There, as here, we consider human rights as the top priority—the rights of national minorities, the legal method of approach, and in general, the possibilities of the return of some kind of morality to the policy. If the president wishes to speak, for instance, on the situation in Yugoslavia, or the Canadian French-speaking Province of Quebec, or of somewhere else, I consider it my duty to prepare such material for him, especially since I am an ethnographer and sociologist by training. I have two experts; one is a specialist on our internal problems and the other specializes in foreign issues. All this must be a united policy of Russia, permeating through the whole national fabric of relations inside the republic and beyond its borders. It is not important if this occurs within the framework of the former USSR or beyond its borders.

[Zaytseva] Galina Vassiliyevna, do you often visit the hot spots, such as Nagorno-Karabakh?

[Starovoytova] Of course, I have been there many times in my life. I was arrested the last time I was there, despite my dual immunity as a deputy. I was held virtually at the point of an automatic weapon for five hours. I have also been to Ulster and to West [as heard] Jerusalem. I think that these currently are the hottest points on the planet, but nowhere have I seen the level of tension as I have seen in Nagorno-Karabakh. Yes, of course I visit there, and Tatarstan or Chechen-Ingush are still not as dangerous hotbeds of tension compared with Nagorno-Karabakh.

[Orlov] Having touched upon the subject, the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is said to be taking on the characteristics of the Lebanese conflict and that it could take on the characteristics of the conflicts of those other places you mentioned. I cannot speak of Ulster, but are these old conflicts as they appear, or are they more peaceful, and it is all just running along the old channels of ethnic disagreements?

[Starovoytova] No, no. In fact, I think that the situation in Ulster could become more like Nagorno-Karabakh or Lebanon. There currently is a real war going on in Nagorno-Karabakh, and the level of tension there cannot be compared with other hot spots of the world. This, by the way, is well understood by our foreign colleagues, and at times, they are more worried about this situation than the heads of CIS member countries. It is generally staggering. I understand that everyone has a lot of matters to attend to, but these are members of the one and the same Commonwealth, members who signed a number of documents. Nonetheless, for some reason, the heads of the other states, who also speak of human rights, today are silent, do not interfere, and allow this conflict to develop. Lebanonization—in the sense of the age of the conflict, of such protracted aggression that is not leading to any constructive decisions—we have had all that in Nagorno-Karabakh for the past four years. Today, on the night of 20 - 21 February, will mark exactly four years since the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, through its representatives, appealed to the Supreme Soviets of Azerbaijan, the then Soviet Union, and Armenia with a request to decide the issue of self-determination for Nagorno-Karabakh. At that time, they were talking of joining with Armenia; today, they have simply conducted a referendum for the complete independence of the republic, for the creation of a small, but independent state. The conflict has smoldered for the past four years, but I think we must use other terminology for the events of the past two weeks.

There is a real war going on; it is not simply interethnic clashes. It is a war using weapons of mass destruction, with masses of victims.

I have in mind the high-explosive fragmentation Grad installations—forbidden by international conventions, but are today being employed against the capital of Nagorno-Karabakh, against the Armenian population of the city of Stapanakert. Dozens of women and children, elderly people, and peaceful inhabitants are being killed. The Russian Government yesterday organized a hearing at the Russian MID [Foreign Ministry], a meeting between the foreign ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia under the auspices of the MID. Some steps were mapped out in the program of settling this conflict, but in reality, I do not think this is enough. In addition, I agree with Eduard Ambosiyevich Shevardnadze's opinion that without bringing in an international force, be they CIS or UN forces, there is no way to stop the present shooting. Only after this can they sit down at a conference table and make decisions, for which there are many variations.

[Orlov] However, on the eve of the foreign-minister-level talks in Moscow, the participants somehow had a positive attitude to this process; at least some basis for talks was outlined. But are our foreign partners prepared to really seriously participate in keeping the peace and supporting the region's stability, such as sending the blue helmets of the United Nations?

[Zaytseva] I do not think they put this proposal forward.

[Starovoytova] They did put that proposal forward, but in reality this proposal is not quite ready for two reasons. First, the UN legislative base is such that before deployment of these blue helmets—keepers of the peace; in English they are literally called: peacekeepers—can take place, it is necessary to have agreement from all sides concerned, especially from the republic on whose territory they are to be deployed, in this case Azerbaijan. Of course, Azerbaijan will not agree. True, at the recent international conference in Prague, a formula of consensus minus one voice was adopted. That is, all members of the Commonwealth voted unanimously, with the exception of the country on whose territory the forces are deployed. Similar—not quite the same, but similar—precedences took place during the Kuwait war in the Persian Gulf, particularly during the defense of the Kurds by U.S. forces in northern Iraq. Iraq completely opposed the step, but the world body still did it anyway. Sooner or later, we will have to take this option; there is no other way. This happened in Yugoslavia. We could have avoided a large number of victims had the UN forces been deployed there earlier. There currently is a real danger to the lives of the blue helmets, the lives of these soldiers. Maybe the United Nations now simply does not have enough forces to deploy in Yugoslavia, here, and other hot parts of the world.

[Orlov] There is also Cambodia.

[Starovoytova] Yes, this is true; Cambodia is waiting in line. We must quickly form our own CIS forces of this type, but only on a professional contract basis, of course. These must not be 18-year-old boys—who, by the way, are dying on the Azerbaijani side—who are called up, shaved, dressed, given an automatic weapon, and are sent off. Pardon me, but what is this, cannon fodder? Children are dying to satisfy who knows whose ambitions! They are dying in greater numbers than the Armenians, who, because they are defending their villages, know every track in these villages, and have carried on this defense for the past four years have simply become professional soldiers in Nagorno-Karabakh. Therefore, losses today are not even, and I think that we must—we regret all losses from both sides equally—simply stop this bloody war.

[Orlov] I think that for me, as a bystander, the most complicated issue is who is defending whom? Both sides, the Armenians and the Azerbaijani, have their own fairly deep motivations, but we will not delve into this. Irina has a question.

[Zaytseva] Not only one question, but we do not have much time left. What interests me, Galina Vassiliyevna, is your being the president's adviser. Does he always agree with your advice?

[Starovoytova] Honestly speaking, when I accepted the president's proposal, I decided that until the president ceases to agree with me at least 51 percent of the time—one percent more than half—I will consider my activity useful and advisable in the team. I, by far, do not always agree with the president's team, naturally—it is well known that we have pluralism. I do not always agree with all the decisions of the leadership or our government, but nonetheless, we are sticking together as a team. Honestly speaking, thus far, our views have coincided on many more occasions. If no more than 50 percent of my judgements are accepted, I cannot rule out handing my resignation to the president. However, today the situation is not that way and we are still reaching consensus.

[Zaytseva] The last question. How do you manage to stay in shape when you carry such burden?

[Starovoytova] Am I in shape? Look at me! I work 24 hours a day. It is the middle of the night now, and early in the morning I am flying out—I will not tell you where, but it is within the CIS—with a particular task, and then I am coming back. Generally speaking, we are working without days off.

[Zaytseva] In that case, I think we need more women in leadership posts, so they can look so good; then everything would be fine and national and other issues would be solved.

[Orlov] Will we find out about your other secret missions?

[Starovoytova] Maybe not right away. Sometimes we cannot say things right away, particularly when we speak of national policy or the formulation of new Russian strategic national interests in the changed geopolitical conditions.

[Orlov] May we guess where?

[Starovoytova] It is not the Transcaucasus, that I can say.

[Orlov] Thank you. Galina Vassiliyevna Starovoytova, our program's guest.

[Starovoytova] Thank you.

St. Petersburg, Estonia Fail To Compromise

LD2802142892 Moscow TASS in English 1624 GMT 27 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Kondratenko]

[Text] St. Petersburg, February 27—Political party representatives of Saint Petersburg and Estonia failed to reach a compromise during the "round-table" talks held here in the Marinski Palace. These discussions were considered to be the continuation of the dialogue held two weeks ago in Tallinn within the framework of the bilateral consultations of politicians and economists.

Questions regarding civil rights of national communities in Estonia, the creation of a Russian university in the Republic, social security, activities of political parties and the right to property were to be discussed during the meeting. But the main topic on the agenda was the citizenship law of the Republic of Estonia. The Chairman of the Christian-Democratic Union of Estonia Illar Khallast and other Estonian guests failed to explain to their Petersburg colleagues why difficulties exist in granting citizenship of the Republic of Estonia.

Discussions on problems of property, economic relations and national churches also failed to reveal a common approach.

The next round of discussions is scheduled for March 13 in Narva.

Russian, Ukrainian Envoys Interviewed

PM0203145592 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 29 Feb 92 p 3

[O. Tekhmenev report, incorporating interviews with Leonid Smolyakov, Russian Federation ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Ukraine, and Vladimir Kryzhanovskiy, Ukrainian plenipotentiary representative in the Russian Federation; place, date of interviews not given: "Between Us Diplomats..."]

[Text] Make the acquaintance of Leonid Smolyakov, the Russian Federation's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Ukraine, and Vladimir Kryzhanovskiy, Ukrainian plenipotentiary representative in the Russian Federation.

Kryzhanovskiy and Smolyakov are almost the same age. They both grew up in Kiev and as children had no thought of getting involved in political activity, still less of pursuing a diplomatic career.

One was born in Vinnitsa, the other in Novosibirsk, but as it happened both their families moved to Kiev after the war.

Vladimir Kryzhanovskiy graduated from the Kiev Construction Institute, worked in various design organizations, and got involved in programming. In the late eighties he joined Rukh [Ukraine People's Movement for Perestroyka], and a year later he was victorious in a contest against nine other candidates and became a Ukrainian people's deputy...

His embassy now has a staff of seven.

Leonid Smolyakov graduated from Kiev Polytechnical Institute, worked as an engineer, then in the Kiev Oblast Komsomol [All-Union Lenin Communist Youth League] Committee, and then in the republic party school (incidentally, Smolyakov was recruited to work there by future Ukrainian President L.M. Kravchuk).

There is only one staffer in his embassy—Smolyakov himself. At the moment he has no premises and no staff.

[Tekhmenev] How do you view relations between Ukraine and Russia?

[Kryzhanovskiy] Despite some tension that flared up recently, I think our relations will run a normal, civilized course. It must be borne in mind that Ukraine has no desire to drift away from Russia—a complete break would be tantamount to suicide for both Ukraine and Russia. Ukraine is a sovereign state that wants to change from being Russia's younger brother to being its good and equal friend.

[Smolyakov] Our relations are finally getting onto a normal, civilized track. Our embassy is the first Russian embassy in a Commonwealth state, and so it will probably act as a kind of model... Relations with Ukraine will be built on the basis of the Vienna Convention alone, and they will naturally be on an equal footing. Ukraine will actually be a foreign country—this is an objective fact. At the same time, of course, a scenario involving a complete break between our states is impossible by virtue of our economic, scientific, and technical ties.

[Tekhmenev] Could you say a few words about your counterpart, the Russian Federation's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Ukraine?

[Kryzhanovskiy] I am fairly well acquainted with Leonid Yakovlevich and I would like to say that the Russian president made a good choice in appointing him ambassador. Smolyakov is undoubtedly a competent, intelligent, and extremely energetic man.

[Smolyakov] Unfortunately, I am not closely acquainted with Kryzhanovskiy, but he seems to me to be an extremely approachable and intelligent man who is always prepared to engage in constructive dialogue. And, you know, I really like his magnificent mustache—the adornment of a real man.

Cam Ranh Bay Withdrawal 'Foregone Conclusion'

LD2902113192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 27 Feb 92

[Report by M. Osokin from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Our warships will no longer be able to use the base at Cam Ranh Bay in Vietnam. According to diplomatic sources in Hanoi, our withdrawal is already a foregone conclusion, since Vietnam requested $400 million a year in rent for the base and Russia did not care for such conditions. Western observers say there are now only a few warships left at Cam Ranh Bay. The installations we built there are not being used. The number of servicemen at the base has already been cut to 2,000 men. This was reported by a diplomat at the Russian Embassy in Hanoi, who asked to remain anonymous.

A Russian delegation will be received in Vietnam in April. Some observers believe that a timetable for our complete withdrawal from Cam Ranh Bay will be announced then.

For many years the Soviet Union's military presence in Vietnam was a source of special concern in Japan and Southeast Asian countries. Now it seems that the problem is going away on its own accord. However, the Japanese now have a new reason for disquiet. They fear an expansion of our military presence in another part of the Pacific. Tokyo says it has information that Russia intends to transfer ships from the Black Sea Fleet to the Far East, if agreement cannot be reached with Ukraine on the retention of single strategic forces.

Moscow Says Mistrust Obstacle to UN Mission

BK0103084492 Moscow Radio Moscow in Cambodian 1130 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Vladimiri Korolev commentary]

[Text] The United Nations is to send 22,000 of its personnel—both military and civilian—to Cambodia. According to news reports, this action will become part of the UN peacekeeping mission's operations. Depending greatly on how fast the mission can be set up is the fate of the Paris accords on Cambodia, which are intended to reestablish peace and reconciliation in this Indochinese country. This view is taken by both the Cambodian factions themselves and everybody who is interested in peacefully settling the Cambodian problem, which has been an outstanding issue for many years.

Since the Paris accords were signed last October, it has never been doubted that the path toward durable peace in Cambodia would be a difficult one. However, no one thought that there would be so many obstacles on that path. Without going into detail about the causes that have complicated the current situation in Cambodia, let us cite for example one peculiar point; the atmosphere of mutual distrust that continues to exist among the different Cambodian factions concerning the concrete aspects of the solution. For example, Khmer Rouge chieftain Khieu Samphan has demanded that Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia, be turned into a so-called neutral zone. As for the leader of another opposition group Mr. Son Sann, he has proposed that a so-called secret cabinet be formed to function concurrently with the present government of His Excellency Hun Sen and make its suggestions concerning the issuance of this or that decision. However, this proposal has met with categorical opposition from His Excellency Hun Sen.

Now that the United Nations has specifically decided to dispatch its own forces to Cambodia, the Cambodian factions have been vying with one another to spread their controling influence in various main regions of the country. This endeavor has gone so far as to lead toward some armed clashes among the factions. Taking everything into consideration, it seems that the Khmer Rouge are the group most happy about resuming the civil war in

Cambodia. Their leadership has consistently refused to cooperate in implementing the UN peace plan. According to an AFP report, the Khmer Rouge have refused to let UN observers enter the zones under their control. They do not want to disclose where they have planted mines or to authorize the map making experts to fly over their areas. A few days ago, the Khmer Rouge fired at a UN helicopter, wounding an Australian officer on board. According to available reports, this incident has greatly worried UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali. All of this is because one thing that might constitute an obstacle to the Khmer Rouge is the mission of the peacekeeping force sent to Cambodia by the United Nations to conduct, for example, the mineclearing operations in the border regions to create a safe passage for the repatriation of Cambodian refugees from Thailand.

Nevertheless, it is still believed that peace will return to Cambodia and that the main contribution to this process is being made by the United Nations.

Battalion May Join UN Forces in Cambodia

OW2802185292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1330 GMT 28 Feb 92

[By diplomatic correspondents M. Mayorov and I. Porshnev; from "Diplomatic Panorama;" transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A field-engineer battalion from Russia might join the peace-keeping forces to be deployed in Cambodia under a U.N. plan.

DP's ["Diplomatic Panorama's"] correspondent has been told that Russia's Foreign Ministry is in favor of the "broadest participation in that operation". Therefore it supported the invitation made to Russia. "The participation of Russian servicemen would make it possible to cover some of the expenses to be shouldered by Russia under the U.N. plan", said a diplomat.

As DP's correspondent learned from diplomatic and military circles, solution to the problem of despatching Russian "blue helmets" to Cambodia will depend on the stand to be taken by the command of the CIS armed forces which has failed to give due support to the idea so far.

Burbulis Meets With Austrian Officials

AU0103160392 Vienna NEUE KRONEN-ZEITUNG in German 29 Feb 92 pp 4-5

[Kurt Seinitz report: "Russia's Race Against Time"]

[Text] It has become quiet in the Kremlin corridors since the army of apparatchiks disappeared under Yeltsin and his team. In the other center of power, the former "sanctuary" of the CPSU Central Committee building on Moscow's "Old Square," in front of which not even cars had been permitted to stop for security reasons in those days, the former solemn atmosphere has given way to the busy diligence of the new Russian Government.

There we visited "Yeltsin's brain," said his Acting Prime Minister Gennadiy Burbulis. "You may see today a country that is declining and disintegrating," he opens the conversation with Vice Chancellor Busek and Economics Minister Schuessel, "but we consider ourselves intellectual and moral winners." Then Councillor of State Burbulis makes a brilliant diagnosis of the complicated situation, but he also cannot offer an effective recipe to combat the disease: "It is said that we are pursuing a shock therapy as a 'shock without a therapy.' The situation is aggravated by the fact that various parts of the country and society are living in different centuries. The revanchist structures continue to be very strong; therefore, we have to proceed resolutely but cautiously."

Yeltsin's chief strategist continues: "We are now in a dramatic race against time." Burbulis sees four forces that impede the reform: "First there are the confirmed communists. They are not many, but they are very aggressive. Second, there are the apparatchik reformers. They are sufficiently intelligent to understand that the past cannot be revived. However, they are decidedly against the people's social liberation. They want to keep their own elitist place in society. They regard the people only as raw material in their hands. They agree to privatization, but they hasten to get a position of their own for tomorrow. Part of the intelligentsia, which has been attached to power so far, also belongs to this group. Third, there are the neo-Bolsheviks. To the outside, they pretend to be reformers, but they want to carry out the reforms in an explicitly Bolshevik way, that is, to put the opponent out of action, to intimidate, and to punish him. Their leftist radicalism is more dangerous than the resistance of other forces. Fourth, we have the national patriots. They insist that the Russian way is exclusive and that the Russian soul is supported by God. For them, Russia is the center of the world and its holy center. They criticize us for adopting the West's points of view. They are dangerous because they cause unrest among the other nations and nationalities in Russia.

The forces that support Yeltsin's reform are equally split and diverse as the opposition. Burbulis said: "Yeltsin's basis is not a constant group, it is based on feelings and subject to continuous change. It is a rare combination of workers, active young people, technical intelligentsia, and parts of the nomenclatura (apparatchiks). At present, this basis is passive, and we must be able to mobilize it, otherwise our opponents will become a serious danger if they are able to come to an agreement."

In the prospects of the republics of the "CIS" Yeltsin's chief strategist sees a "logic that will bring them back again to our way. Europe will not take them as they are. As soon as the present traumatic attitude toward the totalitarian past in the state of the USSR is overcome, they will realize the economic disadvantages of a split."

Finally Prime Minister Burbulis conveys the feeling of frustration that many Russians who grew up in communism have today: "In 1917 the social model that wanted to make mankind happy by force was ripe for the test in practice. It had to happen somewhere. Russia took it upon itself to attempt this—for the world!"

Burbulis leaves the conclusion unsaid that today Russia is expecting help from the world for the fact that, as a guinea pig for the failure of the communist experiment, it has been ruined, as it were, for the world. But: "We tore down the iron curtain and today we are facing a golden curtain."

However, Yeltsin's chief strategist remains optimistic: "Even though I cannot make a prognosis for the future, I nevertheless believe and hope that we will be able to row in this torrent where it is necessary."

Vice Chancellor Busek leaves Moscow thoughtfully: "One can see what a tightrope walk the development in Russia is. All that cannot leave us unmoved. We cannot only watch as observers, but we are also affected by it. Russia's stability is also important for Austria. Therefore, as far as it is within the scope of Austria's opportunities, we should be prepared to also assume responsibility."

Commentator Views Events, Situation in Algeria

LD0203065492 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Aleksandr Krasnov commentary; read by announcer]

[Excerpts] The policy of the Algerian leadership helped in the eighties to spread and consolidate Islamic tendencies in the Algerian society. However, Islam (?exploded) the state's [words indistinct].

This is how a writer assesses the nature and contents of the events taking place at present in Algeria. [Words indistinct] At the same time, it is worth mentioning that the active use of Islam by the Islamic leadership in Algeria was not confined to the eighties. Thoughts of Islam during the war years, which Algeria had fought against colonialism, were closely linked to the thoughts of the liberation of the homeland and the people from colonialism. [passage omitted]

The activity the Islamic fundamentalists in the eighties was linked to the bad economic situation in Algeria, and as a result of the social upheavals and the inability of the authorities to find effective ways and means to improve the bad situation. Mosques became (?the centers of attraction). There, people discussed the problems in their lives and searched for an answer to the sacred question, namely, what can be done? How can the issues at hand be solved?

This situation was exploited by those forces which made Islam a means to reach their own political aims. The following question is being raised persistently. Were the harsh measures which the Algerian administration sought to (?curb) the Islamic fundamentalists justified?

The answer to this question is also being sought by experts, scientists, and journalists in Moscow. Some of them believe that the persecutions of the Algerian authorities against the leaders of the FIS—the National Salvation Front—are a step backward in the development of the democratic process. Others consider this step as necessary in order to rescue democracy in Algeria. At the same time, they agree with those who regard the current anti-Islamic measures as very harsh.

Dear listeners, [words indistinct] Moscow and Russia are paying attention to domestic events in Algeria. Do not be surprised, because the feelings of sympathy which we have even today toward the Algerian people are strong. On this occasion, we look at the events taking place in Algeria across those events which have been taking place in the southern republics of the former Soviet Union, and particularly the Islamic republics, where the tendency has been moving toward plural political parties and democracy under the green color of Islam.

It is worth mentioning that neighboring Islamic states—to be precise—Iran, have been trying to actively influence the development of the situation in the Islamic republics of the former Soviet Union.

Thus, many of the specialists in Arab issues in Moscow have been assessing the measures which are resorted to by the Algerian authorities. It is possible that these measures might temporarily stop the spread of Islamic fundamentalism—a matter that is looked on as positively important by Russia [words indistinct].

In this connection, commentator Aleksandr Krasnov points out the following fact: The small amount of experience in the establishment of democracy in the former Soviet republics shows that a number of preventive measures and especially measures of persecution by the authorities—whether justified or not—create a general rejection of these measures from the masses. Therefore, the commentator regards (?as constructive) the (?plan) of the new Algerian authorities to hold a dialogue with all the wise forces in society with the exception of those forces which preach violence and with which there can be no cooperation. The commentator means here the decision of the Higher State Council in Algeria to include some Islamic figures in the government; i.e. (?those who played a part in the democratic process) on the Algerian state.

The commentator believes that the way of out of the current political crisis should be sought in the economic field. It is unlikely to expect political stability in the country if economic life does not improve. This is the conclusion of the commentator Aleksandr Krasnov, who is a specialist on issues of the Arab world.

Minister Discusses Foreign Trade Links

LD0203143892 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1114 GMT 1 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 1 Mar (TASS)—"Russia is today relying on developing countries in its foreign economic activities to an even greater extent than before," Petr Aven, Russian minister of foreign economic relations, has stated in an exclusive interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent. "We very much need new markets. Therefore, developing countries, especially those with which we have seldom worked so far, are of particular interest to us."

Russia, "is not, of course, renouncing its previous partners," the minister stressed. According to him, "the countries of Eastern Europe are of great significance to us, as before."

Petr Aven called China an "extremely important" trade and economic partner. He reported that a visit to that country by a Russian delegation would take place at the beginning of March to draw up an agreement on trade and economic cooperation.

"A new, all-encompassing trade and economic agreement between our countries will be signed, most probably at the end of March- beginning of April during a visit to India by First Deputy Prime Minister Gennadiy Burbulis," Petr Aven also reported. Nevertheless, according to him, the problem of the lack of correlation between the ruble and the rupee—on which talks are still continuing—"remains completely unsettled."

Tenets of Foreign Policy 'Concept' Viewed

924C0749A Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Feb 92 p 4

[Article by Yuriy Leonov: "Good Concept, But Hardly Feasible"]

[Text]**The Russian Federation foreign policy concept, the need for which has long been propounded from high podiums, already exists, at least on paper.**

This creates certain difficulties for those who have become used to covering for a certain anarchy in conducting foreign affairs by blaming it on the lack of concept. For instance, the speaker of the Russian parliament, Ruslan Khasbulatov, whose attitude toward the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (apparently, as a government structure) leaves much to be desired, recently complained once again (probably in the heat of polemics) about the absence of a foreign policy concept. However, it has become known that by that time the document "On Basic Principles of Russian Federation Foreign Policy Concept"—a short version of the concept developed in the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs—had already been sent from Smolenskaya Square to Khasbulatov and the Supreme Soviet committees. One can follow Khasbulatov's example and leave the concept unregarded, but one can hardly argue with it.

The main idea is the creation of a constructive, low cost, and high payoff foreign policy for the benefit of ensuring the national interests of Russia, of which the main one is the revival of Russian statehood on the principles of democracy and the unconditional supremacy of human rights. According to the concept, the task of ensuring national security should be accomplished through the reduction of military potentials in the world, the elimination of military presence abroad, and a strengthening of the "belt of good-neighborliness" along the entire perimeter of the borders. It also envisages the development of ties of alliance with the United States and other Western countries, with NATO, and with the West European Union, as well as the maximum use of multilateral agreements for creating both a global security system and its regional analogues. Russia acts on the assumption that no country is its enemy; thus, it does not intend to use force other than for the purpose of repelling aggression.

The idea of the concept creators is for the UN Charter and the CSCE documents to be "holy scriptures" for Russia. While cutting its foreign presence, Russia intends to realize its interests first and foremost through participation in various international organizations, and especially by participating in the resolution of global problems. In parallel with its interaction with various organizations of political integration (the EC, the European Council, the cooperation of Black Sea countries, etc.), Russia will aim for equal rights membership in international financial and trade institutions (the IMF, GATT, the World Bank). The reckoning is simple: Having gone far and decisively down the path of declaring adherence to human rights and democratic principles, Russia hopes to overcome the wariness—if not of the Western "moneybags" then at least that of the organizations uniting them. The concept also directly mentions assistance to Russian entrepreneurs in their attempts to enter world markets, making provisions for bringing humanitarian aid to the country, and the need to attract foreign support for the purpose of solving domestic tasks, first and foremost social ones. In the same vein, the authors also see the prospects of bilateral relations; minimum ideology, maximum economic profit.

Speaking of mechanisms of foreign policy implementation, the authors modestly hint at the need for interaction between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia and the parliament and its committees. In the past, the latter paid little heed to the diplomats' lone cries in the desert. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also intends to coordinate the actions of Russian agencies involved in foreign relations, and to provide for regular coordination of policies with CIS members. (In other words, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs hopes that the anarchy is this respect will stop. Laudable, but utopian!) Neither could Ministry of Foreign Affairs staffers help mentioning sore points: "The most important principle of Russia's course will be the unity of foreign and domestic policy... steps taken domestically must be correlated with international obligations." This, in the opinion of the authors of the concept, is an important point to take into account when working out the federative structure of Russia.

Reading this document, one feels an urge to mentally exclaim: Right, way to go! But then the reader becomes enveloped in a certain sorrowful contemplation: Yes, of course, it all seems to be correct, but is all much too logical and academic. Truly, can the authors really be naive enough to believe that their ideal concept for an ideal state will work in a country where foreign policy statements have never been supported by domestic policy, where foreign policy decisions are made maybe in the parliament, maybe in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, or by the president's staff, or maybe in all these three places at the same time, or in none. One is left with a yearning for a law-based state where the real machine of power at least resembles that described in the Constitution...

The essence of the foreign policy concept is to move Russia as close as possible to the world community. However, until a logical domestic government structure is built—supported, old-fashioned as it may sound, by an appropriate level of production forces—this task is premature, to put it mildly. Therefore it should not be surprising that the parliament is in no hurry to respond to the document received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The parliament, up to its ears in attempts to react reflexively to the ever new surprises of Russia's domestic political reality, alas, so far does not seem to take the diplomats' concern to heart. Foreign policy cannot run ahead of domestic. Convincing proof of this can be seen in very recent history—the effectiveness of the foreign policy actions of the former Union at the time of Shevardnadze. And so it is today—even the most courageous ideas on the part of diplomats are not going to save a Russia in a state of crisis, just as humanitarian aid cannot feed its citizens.

Federation Affairs

Yeltsin Appoints Gaydar, Others to New Posts

LD0203192992 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 2 Mar 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Today the president of the Russian Federation made new appointments. Yegor Gaydar was approved as first deputy chairman of the government for economic reform. He will retain the post of minister of finance.

Valeriy Makharadze was appointed deputy chairman of the government for operative management. Yuriy Boldyrev was appointed head of the control directorate of the president's administration and state inspector.

Atomic Energy Minister Appointed

LD0303105992 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1005 GMT 3 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyubov Dunayeva]

[Text] Moscow, 3 Mar (TASS)—Professor Viktor Mikhaylov, doctor of technical sciences, has been appointed minister for atomic energy of the Russian Federation. Russian President Boris Yeltsin has signed a decree on his appointment, an ITAR-TASS correspondent was told today at the ministry's press center.

Viktor Mikhaylov used to hold the post of deputy minister of atomic power engineering and industry of the USSR. At the end of 1991, this ministry was transformed into the the Ministry of Atomic Energy of the Russian Federation.

The new minister is a leading scientist in the field of theoretical and applied nuclear physics and diagnostic systems for nuclear physics experiments. Several sets of unique diagnostic apparatus for testing and perfecting nuclear warheads [zaryad] have been developed with his participation and under his scientific supervision.

In 1988, Viktor Mikhaylov headed the Soviet delegation in a Soviet-U.S. experiment to monitor the yield of nuclear tests.

Nationalities Policy Minister Appointed

OW0203184392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1329 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Boris Yeltsin has appointed Valeriy Tishkov to the post of chairman of the State Committee on Nationalities Policy in the rank of a minister. The relevant decree is dated February 27.

Yeltsin Issues Decree on Rehabilitating Germans

LD0203191392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 2 Mar 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpt] We have already said at the beginning of the program that a decree by the president of the Russian Federation on urgent measures concerning the rehabilitation of the Russian Germans was signed today. This is yet another sore problem, so I will briefly explain its essence despite the fact that you will be able to read it in details in the press.

So, the first thing which is being highlighted, is the necessity to implement urgent measures on rehabilitation and gradual restoration of the statehood of the Russian Germans within the Russian Federation. As the first stage, it is planned to set up, without encroaching upon the interests of the local population, a German national okrug on the territory of the Volgograd Oblast and on the territory of the Saratov Oblast.

Shakhray Explains Decree

LD0303131192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 2 Mar 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpts] A decree on urgent measures concerning the rehabilitiation of the Russian Germans was signed today by by the president of the Russian Federation. [passage omitted]

[Russian presidential aide S.M. Shakhray] The fact that this decree has been issued means that the problem of rehabilitation of the Russian Germans will be resolved gradually. One of the steps taken previously was the setting up , as the president proposed, of the German national rayon in the Omsk Oblast. The decree recognizes that it is expedient to set up a German national okrug in Volgograd Oblast and a German national rayon in Saratov Oblast. An organizational committee has been set up and the Russian Federation government has issued its instructions. The organizational committee will include interested representatives of all sides; the presidium of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, on the basis of this work, will adopt the final decision.

I would like to stress just one more thing. Not a single resident of these oblasts will be forced to move out of his house. Moreover, the residents of the State Farm No 23 in Saratov Oblast have assented to the setting up, on the basis of their farm, of a national rayon, and they will use the land there which is currently uninhabited. The Volgograd Oblast administration has already taken a whole number of specific steps in this direction.

I think that a normal process of the restoration of the German statehood will begin now. Historical justice will be restored. I would like to hope that the Russian and German peoples will remain friends and live in peace from now on.

Decree 'Another Half Solution'

LD0303115592 Hamburg DPA in German 1009 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Excerpt] Moscow (DPA)—The Inter-Republic Council of Russian Germans, the former Soviet-German society "Re-Birth", has described as insufficient Russian President Boris Yeltsin's decree on the creation of two national regions in the former homeland of the Germans. Council spokesman Heinrich Arnhold told DPA today that the decree, announced yesterday, is only "another half solution." He stressed that "only the full restoration of the Volga Republic would mean the rehabilitation of the Soviet German people." The Germans, who have no links with the country's "leading figures," completely reject every other solution. [passage omitted]

Yeltsin Departs for Sochi; in Good Health

LD0303132892 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1200 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin leaves for Sochi today for a (?2-day) holiday. This visit to Sochi has given rise to rumors about the president's poor state of health. We were informed at the Russian Government's press center that Boris Yeltsin's general state of health is good. He is going to the Black Sea to work for a while in a peaceful environment.

Without Own Party Yeltsin Seen as Vulnerable

PM0303145392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Feb 92 Morning Edition p 7

[Andrey Ostalskiy report: "Yeltsin's Party May Be a Guarantor Against Another 'Foros'"]

[Text] "The Reds and the Browns are breathing down Yeltsin's neck," the Western press writes, citing the president's own utterance made during his visit to Paris. Of course, it is true. We can all perceive this remarkable phenomenon both when observing the aggressive rallies in the city center and when looking at the gloomy faces in the overflowing transportation system and at the empty counters.

But is this "breathing down the neck" only coming from a force that has already come out from underground but is still biding its time and still forming? Or is it coming from circles closer to the president?

The difference between Gorbachev and Yeltsin is so obvious that there is scarcely any need for explanation. But there is something similar after all—if only the status and mechanisms of implementing power. And so analogies inevitably accumulate as well.

People who are in the know say that even Gorbachev's bodyguards sitting in the entrance halls "were completely fed up with perestroyka" a long time before August. The convictions of other, more senior figures, who had become the main figures behind the plot, and who included both the vice president and the parliamentary speaker, were no secret to anyone either. But the "personal devotion" or simply previous acquaintance and some other personal ties turned out to be a more significant factor for the former president. And when the moment of choice came—between the "tried and tested" people and the ideas, the president gave preference to the people. Which was the reason for his personal catastrophe, and which almost turned into a catastrophe for society.

Once bitten twice shy—the popular wisdom is right as always, and it appears that in this case it is better to be shy rather than be bitten again. Therefore—this may sound tactless, but you cannot get away from this question—might the "Foros scenario" (or something similar) not be repeated?

"Criticism is normal," the president says when asked to comment on the numerous attacks on his policy. But it is not normal for the opposition, instead of preparing for elections, to demand that power be overthrown, call for hatred and popular anger, and incite the army to "intervene." Criticism is necessary, but not from the lips of the vice president, who was elected on the same "ticket" as the president (and only thanks to this became the number two person in the state) And not from the lips of the parliamentary speaker if he does not belong to the opposition.

In a society where everything is abnormal, there is no ruling party and no normal opposition, so there is no normal parliament to fulfill the role designated for it by democratic rule. And all this takes place against the backdrop of the socialism that still completely holds sway: Despite all talk of privatization, the economy remains totalitarian. The people's psychology remains socialist too—alas it is changing most slowly of all. So that not very much is needed for a return to the past. Possibly all that is needed is the removal of one individual. But in that case the security of the presidency takes on quite dramatic proportions. And no technical devices or measures (although these are important) can ensure it.

This is not a question of specific individuals—the president undoubtedly has the right to "keep" those whom he trusts. It is worse when people who have been invested with enormous power speak at obviously anti-Yeltsin rallies or proclaim openly antidemocratic slogans. But can it be otherwise in the political vacuum that has formed?

Only the creation of a ruling political party, a kind of "Yeltsin party" can be a guarantee against surprises, and indeed this provisional name signifies the principle of loyalty to quite specific political ideals rather than to a particular individual.

Rutskoy Cited on Land Privatization Decree

LD0203170492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2100 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Report on interview with Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy by correspondent G. Batiyev on 1 March; place not given; from the "Novosti" newscast—Rutskoy remarks recorded]

[Text] On 1 March the president's decree on land privatization went into force. Of course it is a good decree, but what happens next?

[Batiyev] Land privatization, the need for which has been talked about for so long by the democrats, has at last begun. Collective and state farms are to be reorganized and local bodies of executive power have been instructed to monitor the setting up of peasant farm holdings. Thus the land is getting an owner. But who will this be: the state or an individual? Vice President Rutskoy is confident: The future lies with peasant ownership.

[Rutskoy] Land reform on its own without any agrarian industry, without the means for mechanization, for working the land and looking after the animals is no good to anyone.

[Batiyev] In order to help the farmers it is planned to set up the Agroprom-Pererabotka company which will engage in the building of housing and of complexes for the processing of agricultural output. Talks are also being carried out with foreign firms about the provision of technical assistance in carrying out small-scale mechanization. New credits have been obtained. These will be used for the setting up of an agro-industrial reform center which will not have any state structure within it. Exchanges and various companies are willing to invest money in the development of private farming. Rutskoy's program is a program for providing incentives for small peasant holdings and for moving away from agro-industrial giants.

[Rutskoy] Of course some people make fun and say Rutskoy's an airman, so it is strange. He does not even know from which side to approach a cow. But that is the whole point. The leader of a reform should not be selected on the grounds that he knows from which side a cow should be approached.

[Batiyev] The vice president thinks that everyone should bear personal responsibility for the job entrusted to him. Those who sabotage the reforms will not remain in their jobs. People must believe that they are going to be replaced, and as soon as possible. For the spring sowing campaign is due to begin soon and the progress of the reform will depend to a large extent upon how successful it is.

Burbulis Chairs Labor Relations, Price Meeting

LD2902225292 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1200 GMT 28 Feb 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpt] The Russian Government is today seeking support from businessmen and the trade unions. This is linked with yesterday's statement by the deputy prime minister, but, by all accounts, the views of the three main protagonists do not yet tally.

[Correspondent V. Perfilyev] According to the general agreement, which was examined in Moscow today at a regular session of the Russian tripartite commission on regulating social-labor relations—it was held under the chairmanship of Gennadiy Burbulis—it is planned to privatize yet this year no less than 50 percent of enterprises in the building materials and trade industries, and the funds obtained to be sent to the social protection of the population. The government's desire to lift the administrative regulation of prices, including those for milk, bread, and power carriers, led to varying reactions.

[A.N. Shokhin, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Government] It is very difficult at the moment to realistically hold these prices, because in many areas they have already been virtually released. The question has to be where to get the financial resources that the local authorities can release, either as subsidies to specific groups of the population or to support the relatively lower prices for milk and bread. [passage omitted]

Free Enterprise Council Discussed

OW2902153292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1259 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Boris Yeltsin is expected to sign a decree shortly to set up a Council for Free Enterprise subordinated to the Russian president. The idea originated with the largest commercial, banking and exchange associations of Russia. Matters relating to the council's activities were discussed Friday [28 February] night at a meeting of business community leaders and Russian Deputy Prime-Minister Gennadiy Burbulis.

The council is expected to play the role of an expert, and consultative body operating outside the president's staff. In particular, it will give its expert opinions about business-related bills and advise the government on free enterprise policies. Council members will act in a close coordination with the government and parliament and will regularly meet the president.

Lev Weinberg, the chief of the Joint-Ventures Association, who attended the meeting said that the council was contemplated as a communication channel of sorts. On the one hand, it will brief the government on the business community's views concerning various aspects of government policies, on the other hand, it will report the government's views to businessmen through council members. Weinberg expressed his hope that this way a better understanding between the government and the business community would be achieved which should in the end contribute to a successful implementation of reforms.

Ex-Spokesman Warns Against Yeltsin's 'Entourage'

LD2802135592 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Text] A Radio Liberty correspondent met Boris Yeltsin's press secretary Pavel Voshchanov, who explained his departure as follows: This is no betrayal. By my departure, I wanted to force the president to stop and think about what is taking place in his entourage. According to Voshchanov, it is precisely from this entourage, and not from the communists who are causing a hullabaloo on Manezh Square, that the main threat to the regime emanates.

This is a Radio Liberty report.

Yeltsin Advisor Warns of Rise of Fascism

LD2902232192 Lisbon RDP Comercial Radio Network in Portuguese 2218 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] The far right is threatening the former Soviet Union countries. The alert came from the Ukranian president and, in Lisbon, advisor to Yeltsin Galina Starovoytova today confirmed it all. More details with Rui Onofre:

[Onofre] The brown danger or nazi-fascism in Russian nationalistic bodies is already a reality and a reality related to great dangers.

As Yeltsin's advisor Galina Starovoytova stressed in Lisbon today, territorial loss, subjection, humiliation, descriminatory measures in other republics and the victims' general feelings felt by Russians, may turn this political force into the greatest threat and the eventual successor of the democratic era in Russia.

Galina Starovoytova, in an exclusive interview with us, declared that Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, also known as the Hyper-Russian or the Moscow Le Pen, is already a part of history but, as the most influential Russian woman stressed, Zhirinovskiy goes but the threat of the Nazi movement remains.

Still according to Galina Starovoytova, the movement's new leader may eventually be the present Russian vice president [Rutskoy], manipulated by his good patriotic feelings.

[Announcer] That was Rui Onofre, accompanying Galina Starovoytova's intervention at the conference on the "Construction of European Unity".

Sobchak 'Could Not Work in Yeltsin Team'

PM0303110092 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 3 Mar 92 p1

[Interview with St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak by A. Aleynikov; place, date not given: "A. Sobchak: 'I Could Not Work in Yeltsin Team Today...'"]

[Text] [Aleynikov] Anatoliy Aleksandrovich, let me begin with something unpleasant—the arrest, for bribery, of a rayon administration head and his deputy. Corruption again—is this the trend now?

[Sobchak] Corruption is always the curse of the Russian state, and today there is particularly fertile soil for officials like that. But I am not going to make generalizations while the investigation is still in progress. Although you are right—this case is unpleasant to me. That is why I am now giving close attention to the City Hall personnel and bringing in first and foremost young people, upright people, and professionals.

[Aleynikov] You live a double life—as mayor of St. Petersburg and as a well-known politician and parliamentarian...

[Sobchak] Of course, my work in parliament was more gratifying, concrete results were evident there. Here, however, even when you take sensible decisions that the city needs, you often find they get held up. By our own Russian Government, among others. For instance, we are now preparing to commission an ultramodern hospital complex. Everyone has signed the credit guarantees—two former health ministers, and even Yeltsin, but a third minister comes along, a new one, and everything has to be gone through all over again—the "whys" and "wherefores" and so forth. Therefore there are more disappointments, although I do not have a sense of hopelessness. The job of mayor is so interesting that you lose all sense of time. There are also pleasant moments when you manage to help people.

[Aleynikov] You have always been notable for your independence, toughness, and trenchancy in assessing politicians at any level. But it seems to me that there is one man who has thus far avoided that fate—Yeltsin...

[Sobchak] I think at the moment we should refrain from harsh criticism of the president, since it is he who enjoys the greatest trust among the people.

But I wish to stress that I do not totally agree with the methods and forms, and to some extent the ideology, of the reform. At the recent political council session there was a tough discussion and plenty of criticism. Boris Nikolayevich agreed with much of it. I think that this kind of confidential criticism from people who know and respect one another, rather than ingratiating flatterers, is more useful.

[Aleynikov] Your theses of harsh criticism of the government line (impoverishment of the masses, secrecy in decisionmaking, miscalculation of results, and so forth) coincide largely with the well-known remarks by the Russian Supreme Soviet chairman.

[Sobchak] It is only natural that our views coincide to some extent. The shortcomings in the implementation of the economic reform are clearly visible to many people... But I have harsh criticisms of the Supreme Soviet too. No less than the government.

[Aleynikov] Anatoliy Aleksandrovich, do you regret your decision not to run with Yeltsin for the post of vice president of Russia?

[Sobchak] No. I could not have worked in Boris Nikolayevich's current team.

[Aleynikov] Why not?

[Sobchak] The choice of people and a certain policy in forming structures are simply not acceptable to me. I think this is the sphere in which the most serious mistakes are being made today. As a specialist, I can see that there is no viable administrative structure. Duplicate and parallel apparatuses are being formed—the president's administration and the government, with undifferentiated and ill-defined functions. There are very few new people. The apparatus is cumbersome—as a local leader, I am aware of that. It nas become even more difficult than before, when you had to constantly maneuver between the Union and republic governments. Many problems get stuck at the middle level of the apparatus. This is so confused and illogical that if you let go of a paper it can get lost there. Such losses happen literally every day. And another thing worries me about Yeltsin's cadre policy—he keeps everyone, even people who obviously messed things up in the previous Silayev government.

[Aleynikov] Have you said so to Yeltsin?

[Sobchak] Of course! He did not like that discussion. Although Boris Nikolayevich has his own considerations, of course. But surely too much effort and energy is being spent on sharing out portfolios and offices?

[Aleynikov] At the communists' rallies nowadays they speak of "demofascism." At the democrats' rallies, it is the "red brownshirt plague." Is there a social base for Russian fascism?

[Sobchak] Yes, it is the lumpen. The lumpen proletariat, the lumpen intelligentsia, the lumpen pensioners—the older generation, who demand additional privileges. There are a great many bigots and dogmatists. That is the most serious danger. We lack a clear social structure of society in which the predominant place would belong to the middle class, which is the personification of reliability and is demanding guarantees. The lumpens do not want guarantees—what they want is chaos, lawlessness, anarchy. The socially destructive element which is springing up in that milieu is extremely dangerous.

Under the banner of national patriotism and social protection, a unification of three forces is taking place: the former partyocrats, the national patriots, and our radical democrats. They have one real chance of victory—mistakes on the part of the present authorities. Although many of those who are in power today I would not venture to call democrats... In their views, not in the manner of their election!

[Aleynikov] In an interview, Gorbachev said in an aggrieved tone that only a few of the politicians now active congratulated him on the New Year after his resignation...

[Sobchak] I congratulated him. We still maintain relations. I am well aware of both his significance and his shortcomings. He had two moments when he could have changed history. The first was at the 28th CPSU Congress, when he could not make up his mind to split the party. At that time a real multiparty system could have arisen and the formation of the new system of power could have proceeded by a more civilized path. The second moment was the beginning of 1991, when the conservative forces went onto the offensive. If he had resolved to throw in his lot with the democrats then, his own fate could have been different...

Popov Criticizes Yeltsin, Rules Out Coup

AU2602124092 Paris AFP in English 1232 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Vienna, Feb 26 (AFP)—The Commonwealth of Independent States "has no future in its current form," Moscow Mayor Gavriil Popov said in an interview published here Wednesday [26 February].

Popov, who is considered a radical reformer, told the Austrian news agency APA: "The only things done together have been the meetings of the presidents of the republics.

"The cooperation among the various member states must first be developed, mainly in economics and miltary matters," he said.

He excluded the possibility of a military clash among the 11 CIS states from the former Soviet Union. "Events in Yugoslavia have had a dampening effect. Violence there has only led to losses," Popov said.

"Since the end of the Soviet Union, there has been no new armed conflict. It is the former communist regime which is responsible for the current clashes in Nagorno-Karabakh," he said, referring to fighting in Azerbaijan.

Popov ruled out another coup attempt, like the one by communist hardliners last August that led to the collapse of the Soviet Union. "The Russian Army does not have a tradition of putsches," he said, adding: "It is important that the army have the chance to develop and modernize."

As for the Ukraine, he said this republic is "too dependent economically on Russia and the other republics to indulge itself in fighting. It imports, for instance, 90 percent of its oil," he said.

He said the danger was political radicalization in Russia, with a possible "convergence of neo-communist and neo-fascist forces."

"That could appear to be a paradox but it is not. Think of the pact between Hitler and Stalin," Popov added.

He criticized Russian President Boris Yeltsin for moving slowly with reforms and privatisation.

Government Official Holds News Conference

Fixed Exchange Rate Planned

LD0203181292 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1500 GMT 2 Mar 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Russia plans to introduce a fixed ruble-dollar exchange rate and in so doing guarantee the internal convertibility of its currency. This was stated at a news conference today by Konstantin Kagalovskiy, the government's plenipotentiary for cooperation with international financial organizations.

[Correspondent A. Lutskoy] Speaking about the government's new economic program, which will be published in the near future, Konstantin Kagalovskiy confirmed Russia's wish to join the IMF. Moreover, its quota should, according to his calculations, comprise around four percent. Today our country needs a stabilization fund of $5-6 billion. If this is present the price of the dollar should stay at the 25-ruble mark. However, since there is none it has been decided to abolish the so-called commercial ruble-dollar exchange rate which comprises half that of the market. The government also intends to abolish all quotas and licenses in the sphere of foreign economic links. Temporarily, quotas will remain only on fuels.

Moreover, after the cold season, the prices of fuels, excluding gas and electricity, will be freed. The introduction of a 50 percent tax on oil and oil products is planned to supplement the budget. The current oil complex will be split up into dozens of companies which should be transferred to private ownership. Land on which privatized facilities are situated will also be transferred to private ownership. As far as the question of the privatization of unoccupied land is concerned, the government does not yet have an answer.

Inflation Expected To Slow

LD0203181992 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] In the fourth quarter of this year, prices in the Russian Federation will grow by only one to two percent per month and the budget deficit by no more than one percent, stated Konstantin Kagalovskiy, plenipotentiary representative of Russian Federation government, at a news conference in Moscow today. He said that it will be possible to halt the drop in production within the framework of the new economic program that will be announced in the nearest future. This program envisages further price liberalization, a hard financial policy, and activation of foreign economic ties.

Kagalovskiy stressed that in the first instance the prices of consumer goods will be freed with the exception of medications and baby food. Toward the end of the heating season the price of energy carriers will go up. As for bringing the prices of oil and oil products up to world levels, this is being planned for no earlier than the end of 1993.

Government To Lift Price Controls

LD0203180592 Moscow TASS in English 1722 GMT 2 Mar 92

[By Business-TASS correspondent Oleg Deineko]

[Text] Moscow March 2 TASS—Price controls on all energy carriers, except natural gas and electric energy used by the population, will be lifted beginning April 15. Rent, transport tariffs and services will remain fixed, Konstantin Kagalovskiy, a plenipotentiary representative of the Russian Government in its dealings with international financial organisations, told a news conference today.

Kagalovskiy said the government also intends to abolish various tax privileges and exemptions. A 50 per cent tax may be levied on oil and oil products. As for monetary policy, "we have reached full understanding with the Central Bank and we are conducting an agreed policy aimed at limiting inflation", Kagalovskiy noted.

Railway Minister Appeals to Trade Union

LD0203134392 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Video report by correspondent V. Skvortsov; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] It seems that a general strike by railway workers capable of paralyzing the country's economic life will not take place. A tripartite tariff agreement has been signed between the Government of Russia, the Ministry of Railways, and the Independent Union of Railway Workers. As a result of the lengthy and sometimes tough talks, the railway men obtained an improvement in working conditions and payment and the necessary social guarantees.

Gennadiy Fadeyev, minister of railways, addressed the participants of the sector's trade union conference and called upon his subordinates for mutual understanding.

The right of transport workers to carry out commercial activity is no less an important point of the agreement, as is the right to introduce flexible tariffs for transportation. Incidentally, that will not make it possible to do without state subsidies completely. The Ministry of Railway's remaining deficit of 6 billion rubles will be repaid partially through state grants. Incidentally, since 1 April, tariffs for freight transportation have risen 8.3 times, and for passenger transportation three times. The forthcoming rise in the price of energy carriers will make it necessary to raise tariffs once again.

As a result of the agreement reached at the meeting of the heads of the CIS in Minsk, the existing tariff agreement remains in force for all countries of the CIS. During the transitional period, it was decided that the Ministry of Railways of Russia will coordinate the railway transport of the Commonwealth, which is quite logical—20 out of the 32 main railway lines are on the territory of Russia.

Incidentally, some locomotive brigades of the Kursk sector, who formed their own trade union, have begun a strike today, nonetheless.

Briefs Conference on Tariff Hikes

OW0203213492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1612 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia is planning to double freight tariffs on railways as of April 1, the Minister of Railways Gennadiy Fadeyev told a conference of delegates from the independent union of railwaymen. He said the measure was due to serious financial problems. Over the past two months the budget deficit of Russian railways has totalled six billion roubles. So far the Russian government has agreed to compensate for the losses.

At the same time Fadeyev said that the measure would not ease the problem of repairing and renewing the rolling stock and track, as the prices of the basic materials keep growing.

The conference was told that one-third of Russia's railway track was in accident-risky condition.

Economic Adviser Views Reform's Future

PM0203113592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Feb 92 First Edition p 2

[Interview with Aleksey Ulyukayev, Russian Government economic adviser, by A. Yevgenyev under the "At First Hand" rubric; place, date not given: "We Have Jumped Out of a Blazing House"]

[Text] [Yevgenyev] Aleksey Valentinovich, you know, of course, that the people who recently demonstrated in Manezh Square were insistently demanding the immediate resignation of the government. I suspect that, as an economic adviser who took part in formulating the program, these were not the most comfortable moments of your life.

[Ulyukayev] Yes, it was not particularly pleasant... But we never expected any compliments. Harsh criticism is the lot of all governments forced to resort to unpopular measures. When we began the reforms, we could not fail to be aware that the people would bear the brunt of them. But we had no other way out. The economy had gotten out of control and our finances had reached a stage of utter disorganization. And the situation was worsening every day. It seemed we were inside a blazing house, everything around us was enveloped in flames and turning to ash, and some kind of supreme effort was needed to break out of this fire pocket and escape.

[Yevgenyev] And did you manage to break out?

[Ulyukayev] The people who demonstrated in Manezh Square do not think so. In their opinion, society is continuing to slide toward the abyss, and any sacrifices made under the present leadership will be wasted. We have a somewhat different view of things. After the steep hike in January, prices more or less stabilized, thus refuting our own forecast. After all, we started from the assumption that this process would take between two and two-and-a-half months. But the wave of high corrective inflation turned out to be steeper and at the same time shorter. This is far more advantageous both economically and socially. Store shelves are gradually beginning to fill up—food stores a bit more quickly, industrial stores a bit more slowly. The way the ruble-dollar exchange rate is changing is significant. Back in the summer and fall it was falling almost vertically. But now it has stabilized. At the latest auctions it even started to rise a little. State enterprises and commercial structures, it seems, are prepared to dump their dollars and marks on the currency market in order not to miss the boat. I will not even mention the fact that the ruble is noticeably "gaining weight" against the Ukrainian coupon. In short, the first signs that the financial collapse has been halted and confidence in the ruble is returning are beginning to show.

[Yevgenyev] The exchange rate does not get everybody excited, whereas price lists...

[Ulyukayev] Prices will continue to rise, but not as fast as before, I am sure. In February, I think, they will rise by about 30 percent, no more than that.

[Yevgenyev] Following January's shock, the rise will indeed be almost insignificant. But this is only half the problem. The other half is that there is a total slump in production. Both the state sector and our young entrepreneurs are unanimously groaning: The government has suffocated us with taxes, it is not letting us expand.

[Ulyukayev] At a time of galloping inflation, nobody can expand, increase production, or make sizeable investments—this is an economic axiom. And what is the point of spending your money if the end result is unpredictable, if you know that tomorrow your ruble could turn into a 10-kopek piece. Therefore a slump in production is inevitable until the end of the year, and we cannot rule out that it will total 12-14 percent of our GNP. I agree: Taxes are too high. But these are the initial rules of the game. Needless to say, we will reduce taxes as soon as we point the budget in the right direction and strengthen the ruble. Producers will get decent incentives to help them develop, and investors will be given favorable terms for investing their funds. But I repeat that this will only happen when we have curbed inflation and put our finances in order. For the sake of the future, goods producers must endure. Even though this will not be easy for them. Credit policy is being tightened up. The Central Bank has raised its credit interest rate to just over 20 percent. Commercial banks have now in turn raised their rate to 35-40 percent, and they are only financing projects and production facilities that guarantee a sufficiently high profit. Unfortunately, things often used to happen like this: A commercial bank would readily subsidize any enterprise, even a loss-maker, knowing full well that the Central Bank would not refuse it a favor and supply it with credit. This is no longer the case.

By the middle of this year the slump in production should slow down, and by the end of the year it should come to a complete standstill. The tax base will be reviewed. The ruble's exchange rate will become more realistic. We will be able to let foreign investors into the country without being afraid that they will snap up all the choicest morsels. It will be possible to supply enterprises that use imported components. Barter will start to die out and the economy will be based on a hard ruble that will encourage the most active and keen-witted.

[Yevgenyev] All this is remarkable in theory. But the thing that worries me personally is this: In January the government fought to the last to avoid a budget deficit, but as soon as February came along concession after concession was made. Is it really true that miners, whose pay has been supplemented considerably, are worse off than construction workers, bus drivers, and metal industry workers?

[Ulyukayev] I am also of the opinion that we were too hasty as far as the miners were concerned. Price policy has greater significance in the resolution of their problems. And coal prices are fixed for the time being. The government intends to free them. This measure is much more effective than simply awarding a pay raise.

[Yevgenyev] So why did you not free coal prices immediately?

[Ulyukayev] On 2 January we faced a situation with several unknown variables. We simply had to make guesses about some things. You must agree that it would have been risky to conduct an experiment with a vitally important sector like the heat and electric power industry in the middle of winter.

[Yevgenyev] Depending on the circumstances, Gaydar's program requires very precise and, more importantly, prompt decisionmaking. In your view, has the government managed to avoid any serious mistakes over the last month-and-a-half?

[Ulyukayev] On a strategic level, yes. From a tactical point of view... We have been reproached, for example, because we did not make preparations for the intervention of imported goods or mobilize domestic stocks in time for price liberalization. But what major foreign purchases could we conceivably make with our foreign debt standing at $70 billion? Five years ago, when Shmelev was talking about this, it would still have been possible. But Ryzhkov and Pavlov eventually ruined the country and made it the biggest debtor on the world market... Building up internal stocks of anything and everything was also difficult because of the shortages in our country. However, we gave prior notice of the price liberalization that we were preparing, and the frantic demand laid the shelves completely bare.

I sense that our weakest spot today is our mutual relationship with authorities at different levels. When we were preparing to free prices, for example, we realized that trade should not be left monopolized. Back in the fall we published a legislative act about commercializing trade. To enable stores to quit the system of trading organizations, acquire the rights of juridical entities, seek their own suppliers, and compete with one another. And what happened? In Penza trade was switched to a commercial footing as early as 2 January, whereas people in Murmansk did not raise a finger and only stirred themselves once their heads had been knocked together. That is to say, the document had an effect in some places, but in others it was ignored. All this directly affects economic policy and distorts its results.

[Yevgenyev] It looks as if the government's relations with the Supreme Soviet are also complex.

[Ulyukayev] We understand the motives impelling the deputies. But I would also like them to understand us. We certainly fall short in some respects. For example, a decision was adopted recently on reducing the value-added tax on groats, pasta, and so on. At first glance this appears to be looking after the population. But in retail price terms this is a mere 8-12 percent shaved off the cost. People will not even be aware of this sort of care. And it is a superfluous problem as far as the budget is concerned.

[Yevgenyev] Especially since, together with the rest of the "liberal" measures adopted the same day, they managed to bore such an accurate hole of 25 billion rubles in the budget. But the government did not object, nor did it respond with a resolute "no," it submissively let itself be ordered about by the politicians...

[Ulyukayev] We have to reconcile ourselves to some things and make compromises for the sake of social consensus. Even though this complicates our task to an incredible degree.

[Yevgenyev] And did it surprise you that the Supreme Soviet chairman was your foremost and most uncompromising opponent?

[Ulyukayev] No. Back in the fall Khasbulatov did not conceal his skepticism about the composition of the government and its program. I suppose a feeling of professional jealousy played its part here—every economist has his own view of what is happening. Moreover, generally speaking it is currently more advantageous to distance oneself from harsh and unpopular measures—this helps to preserve one's political reputation in the future. Understand us correctly: We are not against criticism and we are prepared to make reasonable concessions. But not the sort of concessions that will destroy the very government blueprint which was, incidentally, approved by the Supreme Soviet. When it is suggested to us that we should extend the list of goods on fixed prices or establish a profit ceiling—this means taking a retrograde step. Because the very idea of a free market is being canceled out.

[Yevgenyev] But does it not trouble you that we are copying the Polish option right down to the details, even though political and economic conditions in our countries differ substantially?

[Ulyukayev] Yes, our society is not as homogeneous as Poland with its "Solidarity." National peculiarities come into play. They say it was easier for the Poles. They discuss the private rural producer in the press. They say that from time immemorial he was a marketeer in Poland. This is not true at all, because prior to the reform all private farmers there were bound by contract to the state. It was the state that was the monopoly purchaser of rural produce. In this sense there was never any genuine private property or free competition in Poland. And there were preconditions for these things, which we are now attempting to create in our countryside.

But we have our trump cards—a much higher export potential, a greater range of investment opportunities, and comparatively cheap labor. These are the things we must exploit first and foremost.

[Yevgenyev] Now that we have survived the price shock, what is the government's main task?

[Ulyukayev] The main thing now is to stand our ground. Against pressure both from labor collectives and trade unions demanding pay raises and from the body of deputies who are used to resolving all difficulties by means of the budget and excessive social programs. The next main task is to increase the ruble's exchange rate. A great deal depends on this, including how quickly we can attract large-scale foreign investments. And then there is privatization, of course. Accelerated privatization, moreover. We now have a valid normative base, and several tens of thousands of proposals from entities wanting to privatize themselves have piled up at local level. These proposals must be implemented without delay. We know that plenty of liberties and distortions used to be permitted in this area. Particularly in the transfer of premises other than dwellings from one balance sheet to another. Everything that was adopted before we came along must therefore be revised as regards its conformity with new legislation.

[Yevgenyev] It is known that the government is the executive power. But with regard to the legislative power... In your opinion, what decision is the most urgent right now?

[Ulyukayev] A decision on land. We must repeal the moratorium on the purchase and sale of the land stock. Without this, land reform will not work. And we will be unable to attract foreign investors for a long time to come.

Price Liberalization May Cause Oil Price Boom

LD2902192592 Moscow TASS in English 1601 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] Moscow February 29 TASS—The price of petrol may reach 20-25 roubles per litre after the putting into effect of the Russian government resolution on the liberalisation of oil prices before the end of March, which will lead to the oil price boom, KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA wrote today.

The newsppaper does not agree with the recent assurances of the Russian cabinet that the overall growth of prices will not exceed 50-75 per cent in the forthcoming several months. "We are being told that the price of oil will be no more than 30 per cent higher than the world price, i.e. 40 U.S. dollars per tonne. But by what exchange rate?" the newspaper asked. According to KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, specialists from Tyumen, the main oil producing region of this country, believe that the price of oil will be 12 to 13 thousand roubles per tonne. Consequently, according to the estimates of specialists, petrol will cost 25,000 to 28,000 roubles per tonne. Since the agricultural sector consumes some 37-38 per cent of petrol, one can well imagine how much the price of bread and meat will grow, the newspaper wrote. (The price of 20 to 25 roubles per litre of petrol means the growth by about 20 times as against the present price of one rouble 20 copecks a litre).

Fuel production has been on the decline in Russia over the past several years, KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA pointed out. The 1988 oil output was 624 million tonnes. The figure for 1989 was 515 million tonnes, with Russia accounting for 461 million. If the current trend is not reversed, Russian oil output is expected to be reduced by another 50 million tonnes by the end of this year. Russia's domestic demand amounts to 220 million tonnes, and with the oil output of 400 million tonnes, Russia will be able to export 180 million tonnes. The problem is that the demand of other CIS member states, which produce themselves a total of 60 million tonnes, stands at 200 million tonnes.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA does not deny the fact that in the current situation "it is necessary to find economic levers which could enhance the interest of oil producers in increasing oil output with an obvious profit both for themselves and Russia." the newspaper pointed out, however, that the experience of Western countries showed that "during wars, the post-war development or inflation" state control over prices is a reasonable measure.

Committee Chief Interviewed on Prices

PM0203130592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Feb 92 First Edition p 2

[Interview with Inna Zhabina, chief of the Russian Prices Committee department for the methodology and regulation of price formation, by Yelena Krementsova; date and place of interview not stated: "Prices Committee Wants To Become Monopolists' Tamer"—first two paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] Since the liberalization of prices, the need for an institution like the Prices Committee would seem to have fallen away. But January has shown that with a total shortage of goods and the absence of competition we cannot talk of any normal balance between supply and demand. People have started to talk again of the need for the authorities to influence prices policy.

Inna Zhabina, chief of the Russian Prices Committee department for the methodology and regulation of price formation, comments on the situation:

[Zhabina] In any civilized state, even under free market prices conditions, there has to be regulation. And it is all the more necessary with our universal monopolism. The question is who will implement it and on the basis of what principles. So far the government has assigned this function and the elaboration of the methodology to the antimonopoly committee and to us. We are now collecting data on the republican and interrepublican markets. Only when we have generalized them will we be able to formulate proposals in a reasoned way.

[Krementsova] Yet meanwhile prices could paralyze production.

[Zhabina] Yes, we cannot wait long. Many enterprises are on the verge of closure. For instance, for some furniture combines prices for chipboard have become unattainable, for others the furniture has become unsaleable. A similar situation has taken place in the light and food industries. The most terrible consequence of all this is mass unemployment. Therefore, having taken two steps forward—toward the liberalization of prices and the renunciation of the system of distribution of resources, we will have to urgently take a step back: to introduce limits on profit for individual sectors. In March, if they are approved by the government, we hope the situation will change.

[Krementsova] It is a case of restrictions which make it impossible for the monopolist producer to inflate prices excessively in relation to the prime cost of output. But the idea of regulation nonetheless presupposes something else: the establishment of prices' interaction.

[Zhabina] It is still too early to speak of regulation in that sense. In all just a month has elapsed since the liberalization of prices. Yes, price should be determined by demand. But under the conditions of restricted supply the structure of prices is so deformed that without privatization you cannot rectify the prices system solely through the efforts of the antimonopoly committee and our committee.

[Krementsova] But nonetheless toward what will you steer executive power?

[Zhabina] On the internal market today in contrast to the world market reduced prices are being kept for energy sources and some types of raw material. Here the illegal export of this output from the country is being controlled only feebly. But in the timber and chemical industries and in machine building some prices have exceeded the price ceilings of foreign markets.

Therefore we shall take as a point of reckoning world prices for similar goods calculated at the ruble's commercial exchange rate.

[Krementsova] So how will prices behave with the new orientation?

[Zhabina] For three to five months as a minimum prices will grow in those sectors where they are lower than world prices. Individual types of raw material, energy sources, and food remain the most expensive on the international market. In addition on the government's instructions many enterprises of base sectors have received the right to sell a considerable proportion of their output at free prices.

But I want to stress that in its present capacity the committee will neither assert nor dictate prices. It was conceived to provide prompt information to the government on violations of the state discipline of prices and to elaborate options for influencing the course of events. But in connection with the tense social situation the government may undertake extreme measures and temporarily "freeze" some prices and establish limits for the growth of others. And if an enterprise, especially a monopolist, conceives the idea of substantially exceeding price limits, then he will have to submit to us in advance a declaration with economic justification for the increase in price.

[Krementsova] I frequently heard of the flourishing of bribery in the Union State Committee for Prices. Are there guarantees that this tradition—following its employees—will not move to the Russian committee?

[Zhabina] The guarantee is that we will not approve prices.

[Krementsova] And control them?

[Zhabina] The state inspectorate for prices under our institution will do that. But it mostly has to collect information on similar structures locally.

Deputy Finance Minister Cited on Tax Reform

LD0103164492 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0145 GMT 1 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Petr Tsyrendorzhiyev]

[Text] Moscow, 1 Mar (TASS)—"The heavy pressure of taxes will be felt by everybody for some time to come—both by the enterprises and by the citizens", it was revealed in an interview given to ITAR-TASS by Russian Deputy Finance Minister Sergey Gorbachev.

Nevertheless, he resolutely refuted criticism of the government about an allegedly ill-thoughtout tax reform. According to him, the criticism is based on a lack of knowledge and understanding of the transformations in this sphere. The new Russian laws on taxes envisage considerable benefits to the producers of goods—not to all kinds of middlemen. A total of 32 percent of the profits is taxed and 78 percent are retained by the enterprises.

The implementation of a radical economic reform and the creation of a deficit-free state budget is unthinkable without a rigid tax policy, thinks Sergey Gorbachev. The Russian Government is fulfilling its promise about readjusting a number of paragraphs while implementing the reform and decisions will be made this year on the introduction of benefits for investment and crediting in the consumer goods production sphere.

Gold Industry Congress Regrets Taxation Policy

LD0203162192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Editorial Report] Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian at 1900 GMT on 1 March, in the "Itogi" program, carries a three-minute report on a gold industry congress held in Moscow last week.

Over clips of gold mining and processing operations, an unidentified correspondent outlines the role of gold prospecting associations in the history of Soviet gold mining as a voice-over narrative explains the background of the very low estimate of Soviet gold reserves last year compared with Russia's reserves before the World War I. Moving on to the work of gold prospecting associations at the present day, the correspondent says:

"Last year the prospectors mined more than half the country's gold. They won in the competition between two systems - the socialist system and the market system. Today the prospectors have the richest experience of working in market conditions. On 22 February the Russian Supreme Soviet passed a law on mining which abolished in particular the state's monopoly on prospecting and mining gold. It would appear that everything is fine. But at a congress of the union of associations of gold prospectors in Moscow last week they said that the law did not solve the problems. Why? The government is introducing high taxes, and artificially low prices are being maintained for gold. And not just that: the prospectors are being required to revalue old equipment and buy it at this year's prices."

Next, video of the congress in progress cuts to an interview with Viktor Tarakanovskiy, chairman of the union of associations of gold prospectors, who says:

"We were offended, all the chairmen - this is a golden pool of associations, there are in the country perhaps no more than 100-120 real organizers of production - we were offended because representatives of the government and the Supreme Soviet whom we invited did not come to our congress, although the associations are currently providing this output to a value of tens of billions of rubles, and last year alone provided it with 1 billion dollars."

The correspondent concludes: "The three days of the congress showed that the prospectors' cause is nevertheless gaining in strength. All they need now is that they should not be hindered, and if the government understands this and helps the prospectors, then the country will have gold."

Official Sees 'Effective' Foreign Investment

OW0203225992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1925 GMT 2 Mar 92

[From the "Soviet Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A steady and significant flow of foreign investments in the Russian economy should begin by the end of 1992, says Leonid Grigoryev, chairman of the Russian Federation's Government Committee on foreign investments. In conversation with an "IF" [INTERFAX] correspondent Grigoryev stated that by the year's end, a majority of factors will be in place which guarantee foreign businessmen effective investment in Russia.

INVESTMENT CONDITIONS. Establishing general socio-political stability remains the foremost goal, as the present instability scares foreign businessmen away from the Russian market. According to experts, economic reforms by "Gaydar's team" will show real results by the end of 1992. In particular, the inflation rate will slow to 3-4% monthly, peoples' wages will grow to reflect price rises, and the national currency's exchange rate will drop to 25-30 rubles to the dollar, and the ruble could possibly be made convertible.

In addition to this, by mid-summer an "adequately fair legal base necessary to guarantee foreign investments" will have been approved, Mr. Grigoryev said. Even today, his committee is at work on a bills for a laws on bankruptcy, norms on deposit rights, and a proposal to change the law on foreign investments. The main point to these changes, according to Grigoryev, is to clearly define where foreign capital is invested and the form of its "infusion" into Russia's economy. There are also plans to make provisions in the law on a special investment exchange rate for the ruble.

WAYS TO INVEST. Today the volume of foreign investments in Russia totals about 1$ bn [billion]. Most of this sum is invested in joint ventures. Grigoryev expressed confidence, however, that in the near future this amount would grow considerably. Several large projects financed in part by foreign capital are on the brink of conclusion. In particular, a factory which produces polythene in the Stavropolsky kray will soon begin operating; several European banks invested about $350 mn [million] in this project.

Grigoryev thinks, however, that the main part of foreign capital investments will go into the oil industry, extracting and processing precious metals and the timber industry. In addition to this he added that Western businessmen "have great interest in Russian industry, in particular, in machine building and consumer goods production." Presently, the Committee's coworkers are working jointly with foreign businessmen on several projects, any one of which is worth between $10 and $100 mn.

On the whole, Grigoryev noted, foreign investors are most interested in investing in the Russian economy. "If they invest now, they create the basis for high returns in the future," he said.

"IF" NOTE: Leonid Grigoryev is 45 years old. In 1968 he graduated from Moscow University with a degree in Economics. His dissertation was on American financial corporations: mergers, acquisitions and bankruptcy. Until he was named chairman of the Russian government's Committee on foreign investments, he worked at the academic Institute of World Economics and International Relations.

Security Officials on Banned Entry Into Russia

LD2702133392 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1220 GMT 27 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow, 27 Feb (TASS)—Entry to Russia is banned for 5,378 people who are on the so-called "monitoring lists" [kontrolnyye spiski]. This was announced by Igor Zinchenko, representative of the counterintelligence service of the Russian Federation Security Ministry, at a news conference here today. According to him, the lists include data on terrorists, extremists, individuals suspected of espionage activity, drug dealers, and AIDS-virus infected people. Igor Zinchenko stressed that those who had earlier been banned from entering the country for ideological considerations have been excluded from the monitoring lists of late.

General Aleksandr Gurov, who participated in the news conference, said that a search for U.S. POWs is difficult since the U.S. pilots shot down over our territory during the "cold war" years did not give their true names.

In conclusion, Andrey Chernenko, head of the Security Ministry press center, said that the information published in FORBES magazine about the alleged planned sale of Lenin's body has entailed a stream of telegrams to the ministry from the United States. Private individuals and entire organizations are proposing to put it up for auction. Starting prices in the range of 1,000 to 27 million dollars have been quoted for the body of the leader of the world proletariate. Andrey Chernenko reiterated that there would be no "sale."

Coup Investigator Says 'Unexpected' Possible

LD0103042492 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1900 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] The RIA agency reports that the unexpected is possible in the legal proceedings against members of the State Committee for the State of Emergency, Valentin

Stepankov, procurator of Russia [procurator general], said in an interview given to TIKHOOKEANSKAYA ZVEZDA [Pacific Ocean Star], a Khabarovsk newspaper. Thus, he supposed that an attempt may be made in court to implicate Gorbachev in the affair as a participant, or as a person who secretly gave the go-ahead for these actions.

In Stepankov's words, members of the committee may also try to conceal some shady machinations in the government, in the highest spheres of power, in order to draw responsibility for their actions away from themselves. Valentin Stepankov, procurator of Russia, is in the Khabarovsk Kray on official and deputatorial business.

CPSU Financing of Foreign Parties Investigated

LD0203041492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] Yevgeniy Lisov, Russian deputy general procurator, has said that he is conducting an inquiry into CPSU financing of foreign left-wing parties. Lisov said he has still not decided whether criminal proceedings will be brought. In an interview today with the WASHINGTON POST, Lisov says the party leadership had no right to send state funds abroad. He described the Politburo as having conducted itself as though it were the government, giving orders to state banks to transfer funds to a KGB special account. He said that such cash transfers are completely illegal.

Documents quoted in the American paper attest to cash having been transferred to Gus Hall, the leader of the U.S. Communist Party; one of them is a receipt from Hall for $2 million in 1987.

Decree on Newsprint 'Will Go Unfulfilled'

LD0103212692 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1709 GMT 29 Feb 92

[From the "Domestic Market" section]

[Text] Vyacheslav Zhiganov, president of Rossiiskaya Bumaga Exchange believes that a decree of the Russian President on state order for newsprint to enterprises supplying newsprint will go unfulfilled.

It is easier for us to stop production than to operate at a loss. Vyacheslav Zhiganov, president of Rossiiskaya Bumaga Exchange, said on February 27. Zhiganov is also director general of joint stock company Volga which includes virtually all large pulp-and-paper complexes in Russia.

Zhiganov said that from January 1991 the price of splinters needed for pulp production rose from 25 rubles per ton to 2.5 thousand rubles per ton. Caustic soda and calcinated soda which cost 17 and 15 thousand rubles, accordingly, in 1991 is now worth around 100-150 thousand rubles per ton.

Zhiganov also said that at the sales of the Novosibirsk branch of the exchange in January 1992 pulp was offered for sale at the price of 30 thousand rubles per ton. The cost of paper made of such raw materials would be 48-50 thousand rubles per ton. Zhiganov said that large pulp-and-paper complexes now experience a severe slump. For instance, the Solikamsk complex now operates at 25 percent of its capacity, the Kondopoga complex at 60 percent. The reason for this is the lack of timber.

If the multitude of problems faced by paper makers are combined with administrative pressure, instead of aid, the industry would grind to a stop, Zhiganov said.

Decree Approves Fund To Support Reforms

PM0203132992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Feb 92 First Edition p 3

[Unattributed report: "International Fund for Supporting Reforms"]

[Text] A decree of the Russian Federation president has approved the initiative of the republics within the Russian Federation, of the krays and oblasts of the Russian Federation, and of Russian and foreign organizations and citizens to institute an international fund to support Russia's economic reforms as a voluntary nongovernmental organization operating on the basis of its own statute and created to assist the Russian Federation government and economic subjects in pooling the efforts of enterprises, organizations, and institutions and also to assist citizens in implementing economic reforms and scientific and technical transformations and establishing market relations.

The ministries and departments of the Russian Federation, the councils of ministers of the republics within the Russian Federation, and the executive power organs of krays and oblasts and the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg have been instructed to assist the fund in fulfilling the tasks facing it.

Official Wants Security Controlled by Law

LD2702121992 Moscow TASS in English 1155 GMT 27 Feb 92

[Text] Moscow February 27 by ITAR-TASS—A Russian security official says reform should focus on taking the Russian Ministry of Security away from ideology and bring it within tighter control of constitution, law.

In an interview with the newspaper TRUD today, Anatoliy Oleynikov, Russian first deputy minister of security, described the main directions in the ministry's activities.

He said the ministry is entitled "to protect state sovereignty, territorial integrity and defence capability of the Russian Federation, defend its constitutional system, the rights, freedoms and the lawful interests of the individual.

"It should likewise supply the president and the supreme bodies of legislative and executive authority with information about threats and emergencies, analyse and project the internal political situation, the socio-economic situation and the crime rate in the federation and crises in other states affecting our security."

Oleynikov noted the establishment will "organise and carry out counter-intelligence to detect, warn and head off subversive and intelligence activity by foreign secret services and organisations."

Compared to the KGB, the ministry has a totally different structure. "What is left is the professional core of counter-intelligence agents and specialists in combatting crime, contraband and in ensuring economic security."

"The staff that headed services was changed practically completely. The old personnel have been replaced with well-trained and professional people who never took part in political gambles or fulfilled the will of some or other politicians," Oleynikov emphasised.

People's Assembly Formed, Aims Outlined

LD2802100192 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 2114 GMT 27 Feb 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Moscow—Mikhail Astafyev, the movement's co-chairman:

We do not regard Russia as a mono-ethnic country. Speaking on February 27 at a press conference in Moscow, devoted to a session of the Russian People's Movement (RPM) held on February 22, Mikhail Astafyev, RPM co-chairman and chairman of the Russian Party of People's Freedom (the Constitutional Democratic Party) central committee, also said: The RPM's ideal is a great and indivisible multi-ethnic Russia. According to Astafyev, the slogan whereby purely Russian areas should be separated from the single territory of the Russian Federation and a Russian republic formed, is openly hostile to the Russian statehood. The current Russian government is not capable of upholding our national interests, and moreover, it is not even capable of defining them, Astafyev said. A second echelon of communist rulers has come to power, he pointed out. According to the RPM leadership, the movement's immediate task in the field of ethnic and state organization is the accomplishment of real equality of the administrative and ethnic-and-state entities in the Russian Federation in the economic ad social spheres, as well as the equality of people of various nationalities living in these areas. Astafyev stressed that the RPM does not aim to unify Russia's patriotic organizations. Our movement provides an umbrella only for those patriotic groups that occupy right-of-centre positions. No extreme right organizations participate in RPM's activities.

Chairman of the RPM board and leader of the Russian Christian Democratic Movement and Russian Federation's parliamentarian Victor Aksyuchits told the press conference that the RPM central council included representatives of the Russian Christian Democratic Movement, the Russian Constitutional Democratic Party, the Vozrozhdenye (Revival) Party, the National Republican Party of Russia, the Russian National Union, the People's Labour Union, the Russian Merchants' Union, the Union of Russian Cossacks, the International Fund of Slavonic Culture and also representatives from various Christian and national patriotic movements in the Baltics, Ukraine, the Dnestr region, Gagauzia, the Crimea, South Ossetia and Kazakhstan. Aksyuchits said that RPM members, deputies of the Russian Supreme Soviet had begun active preparations for the next Congress of Russia's People's Deputies, within the framework of which the RPM was planning to hold its first official public rally in Moscow's Manezh Square. The RPM was founded at a congress of civil and patriotic forces of Russia which took place in Moscow on February 8-9, 1992.

Wants 'Revival of Great Russia'

LD2802134192 Moscow TASS in English 2944 GMT 27 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow February 27 TASS—At a news conference held on Thursday [27 February], leaders of the recently formed Russian People's Assembly said they represent a sound "third force" whose chief purpose is to arrest the state's desintegration.

Chairman of the Assembly's board, leader of Christian Democrats Viktor Aksyuchits, and co-chairmen of the assembly—leader of Constitutional Democrats Mikhail Astafyev and sculptor Vyacheslav Klykov—spoke about the tasks of the new patriotic movement that, in addition to, right-of-centre and right-wing parties of nationalist kind, include various organisations, among them those of clergy, of Cossacks. All of them are rallied around the idea of "the revival of great Russia".

"We regard ourselves as the most consistent democrats. Power is now held by the second echelon of the CPSU", Aksyuchits said. Astafyev said that the Russian People's Assembly was formed for the reason that its founders could not be certain that the government is capable of upholding national interests and were aware of concessions being made in foreign politics.

The assembly's leaders distanced themselves from "national extremism". They said that a recent plenum of the assembly's central council adopted a statement condemning the proposals to separate "purely Russian regions" from the expanse of the Russian Federation and form on their basis the so-called Republic of Rus. At the same time, the leader of constitutional democrats said that the Russian People's Assembly does not recognize the present borders of the Russian Federation as Russia's natural historic frontiers. "But this does not mean that we urge people to violence, to war", he said.

The participants in the news conference favoured "the continuation of contacts between various trends of the patriotic movement". While not having an unambiguous attitude to Dmitri Vassiliyev, the leader of "Pamyat", and Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the leader of the Liberal Democratic Party, they did not rule out the possibility of contacts between the assembly's right-wing and the organisations they head. "If the leader of an organisation has a tough stand, this does not mean that all members of the organisations have the same stand", Astafyev said.

It was announced at the news conference that the Russian People's Assembly plans a rally in the Manezh Square in support of its programme of the revival of Russian statehood on April 5.

Officials on Party Platforms

LD0203052992 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0900 GMT 28 Feb 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] We regard ourselves as the most consistent democrats; a second echelon of the CPSU wields power nowadays, participants in a news conference of the recently created Russian People's Assembly [RPA] stated.

[Correspondent I. Minayev] This is archive footage showing a congress of Russia's civic and patriotic forces. It was there that a mass political movement was formed as an alternative to Democratic Russia and as an opposition to the present-day republican leadership.

Viktor Aksyuchits, leader of the Christian Democrats, was elected chairman of the board at the first session of the Central Council.

[Begin V.V. Aksyuchits, chairman of the RPA board, recording] We are convinced that the country's economic revival, cultural blossoming, and political revival are possible only if we halt the collapse of our state and common abode and revive Russian statehood. The Russian People's Assembly is trying to consolidate all those who understand that the task of Russia's state revival is the main task nowadays. [end recording]

[Minayev] The movement's leaders have distanced themselves from national extremism. They are against attempts at creating a Russian republic within the Russian Federation. According to its leaders, the movement will also oppose extremists from the democratic wing, who are trying to bring to a logical conclusion the Bolshevik principle of the nations' right to self-determination.

The Russian People's Assembly stands for peaceful political methods of struggle against violence. Here is a question about attitudes toward events in Moscow on 23 February.

[Begin M.G. Astafyev, RPA cochairman, recording] The clashes on 23 February were a crude provocation by the Moscow authorities. I recall Gorbachev's times, when little respect toward him was shown in Manezh Square. Nevertheless, the authorities of the time displayed tolerance. Only once, on 28 March, they cordoned off Manezh Square and this, perhaps, predetermined Gorbachev's eventual fall as USSR president. [end recording]

[Minayev] On 5 April, the Russian People's Assembly is planning to hold a rally in Manezh Square, Moscow, in support of its program for reviving Russian statehood.

Peasants' Party Leader Criticizes Rutskoy

LD2802220392 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Text] As is known, the decision by the Russian leadership to entrust Aleksandr Rutskoy with agriculture has produced an ambivalent reaction.

Yuriy Chernichenko, leader of the Peasants' Party of Russia, said today at a news conference in the White House: Rutskoy and agriculture: this is rather like something from the realm of Russian folklore.

The leaders of a number of parties and movements set out their vision of the reforms being carried out by the government

Having expressed respect for the vice president of the Russian Federation, Chernichenko noted nevertheless that Aleksandr Rutskoy is clearly being allocated the role of some fine fellow in a fairy tale who is to go through fire and water and remain safe and sound in the process.

The leader of the Peasants' Party responded in a highly skeptical manner to the steps being taken by the Russian Government in the sphere of agriculture.

Reform Movement Plenum Discusses Government

LD0203130192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 29 Feb 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] A plenum of the political council of the Movement for Democratic Reforms [DRM] met in Moscow today in the Oval Hall of the former Council for Mutual Economic Aid, which is currently owned by the Moscow mayor's office. It is true, the mayor himself, the chairman of the movement's political council, failed to attend today's sitting. Yakovlev and Shevardnadze were also absent.

The first, and probably the main item of today's agenda, the economic platform of the DRM, was an analysis of actions of the Russian government. Academician Petrakov and government adviser Yasin were engaged in a dialogue. Both economists defended their versions of the economic situation in the country and talked about a possible program of actions but failed to arrived at consensus. A proposal was even voiced to lock up the academician and the professor in the same room and leave them there until they work out a single program which would finally save Russia. Both assured each other of their eternal friendship but refused to sit it out.

Apart from this, it became clear that the DRM is no longer a Russian organization, but a state one. So, it has every right to criticize both the Belarussian or Tajik governments, let us say. This is exactly what happened. Everyone had their fair share of criticism. This took quite a lot of time.

Previously, when there was one central government, it was far easier to criticize. Having understood this, the political council members began to elaborate a general economic concept. To be honest, I did not quite catch whether they succeeded in this or not. But instead, I learned that the DRM is an opposition. And not just an opposition, but a constructive one. It intends to influence the government - although it is not clear the government of which republic - by means of constructive criticism. But criticism is criticism.

As for constructiveness, like a participant in today's meeting said, the government and the DRM offer essentially the same kind of constructiveness. The only difference is that the DRM proceeds from what they wish would take place and the government proceeds from what can take place in reality.

Discusses Economic Situation

OW2902154692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1259 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The growth of the ruble exchange rate against the U.S. dollar and a hullabaloo accompanying it is "a sheer bluff", academician Nikolay Petrakov, a member of the Political Council of the Democratic Reform Movement (DRM), said Saturday [29 February] in Moscow at a meeting of the movement's leaders.

According to Petrakov, the currency market is virtually nonexistent in this country. Exchange rates of hard currencies are set artificially and have no bearing on the actual economic situation. This is evident, the academician said, in the fact that Russian citizens are unable to buy dollars at the current exchange rate.

In his analysis of the country's economic situation academician Petrakov said that "the government had chosen a reform path which hit the population the hardest". He estimated that life standards of the Russian population plunged by 40% in the last two months.

Petrakov suggested that the DRM work out a detailed economic program based on a comprehensive land reform, privatization and conversion of defense enterprises to civilian uses.

The meeting was attended by Yevgeniy Yasin, adviser of the Russian government, who agreed with many of Petrakov's pronouncements. He conceded that "in the current circumstances the Vnesheconombank of Russia (Foreign Economic Relations Bank) is in effect bankrupt, even though no one wants to acknowledge this". He said the government plans to propose that the VAT [value-added tax] be cut immediately after the forthcoming price liberalization.

With regard to a possibility of the government stepping down, Yasin called on the DRM leaders to think first "Who is going to replace Gaydar and what will happen to the reform process?"

Pro-Union Activists Prepare for 'Test'

PM2802163792 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 26 Feb 92 p 1

[A. Podkopalov report: "Who Is Last in the Waiting Line for Power?"]

[Text] The number of people wishing to "cover" the present authorities is increasing.

Prokhanov and Dugin's "new right" and Kurginyan's "Eurasian technocrats" prefer to while away the time in impressive "shadow cabinet" debates on the pages of DEN and to exercise their brains in arguments on how they are going to save Russia when the people call upon them to do so.

The Russian Communists (RCWP) [Russian Communist Workers Party], not relying too heavily on the people's awareness, are striving to awaken it by provoking various marches and actions in the name of "hungry waiting lines" and "empty saucepans." Moreover, given the general allergy to the word "communism," they bashfully hide behind the euphemisms "Working Russia" and "Working Moscow."

The link-up between the RCWP and the section of the corps of USSR People's Deputies gravitating toward the "Soyuz" group is perfectly logical. In this alliance "Working Russia" (the RCWP) acquires the status of a body fighting to restore "legitimate" authority, while the deputies acquire a semblance of support from the "working people" and the hope of returning to power. The general test of strength is scheduled for the spring—an extraordinary Congress of USSR People's Deputies will convene 17 March and will proclaim itself the "sole legitimate organ of power" and declare the restoration of the USSR. Curiously, it is proposed to obtain former USSR Supreme Soviet Chairman A. Lukyanov's release from "Matrosskaya Tishina" jail so he can participate in the congress; in the communists' opinion, he is guilty only of trying in every possible way to prevent the "disintegration of the Union." "Artillery preparation" for this assault by the "unionists" will take the form of a "National Assembly" [veche] which is being organized by "Working Russia" (RCWP) for 15 March.

Naturally, "Democratic Russia" and Yeltsin's supporters are not just going to sit back with their arms folded, so we can expect some stormy days before long. The situation is further complicated by the fact that the democrats are already having to fight on two fronts—not just the "reds" but also the "patriots" have joined in the fight for power. An extremely popular idea among these circles is that of some kind of Russian or Land Council. The Russian People's Assembly organized by the recent Congress of Civil and Patriotic Forces is claiming the role of just such a duma empowered to set up a "shadow government" not only in the center but also in the regions. In essence, it is a matter of setting up parallel power structures like the Citizens' Committees in the Baltic countries. Similar work is being carried out by the Slav Council, which set up the Russian National Council in Nizhniy Novgorod a few days ago. There are also purely ridiculous examples. The All-Russian Monarchical Center (AMC) intends simply to convene a land council in October and elect an autocratic emperor.

There is just one thing which prevents us from laughing about all this—there is none of the old post-putsch unity and solidarity in the ranks of the Russian leadership. For instance, who can guarantee that A. Rutskoy, dispatched "in Ligachev's footsteps" to strengthen the agrarian sector, will not be seriously aggrieved and head the Russian People's Assembly, bringing it vital strength and leadership quality? After all, his closest aide General Sterligov went from the "White House" straight into the Slav Council...

Democratic Russia Proposes Defense Candidate

MK2802110292 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Feb 92 p 2

[Interview with Colonel V. Smirnov, cochairman of "Democratic Russia" Coordinating Council, by Aleksandr Putko under the "Viewpoint" rubric; place and date not given: "'Democratic Russia' Favors Defense Minister Without Stripes"—first two paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] The Coordinating Council of the "Democratic Russia" movement recently proposed its own candidate for the post of defense minister—Andrey Afanasyevich Kokoshin, a 46-year old corresponding member of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

What is behind this nomination of a civilian to the top post in the Armed Forces—a move to break stereotypes or a real necessity? This is what Colonel Vladimir Smirnov, cochairman of the "Democratic Russia" Coordinating Council, said in response to this question.

[Smirnov] We think that a civilian as defense minister will make it possible to ensure more reliable political control over the Armed Forces. At the same time this will provide an opportunity to take a new, creative approach to formulating military policy and Russian military doctrine. Many military professionals are convinced that a civilian minister will more likely be able to overcome the stereotypes that have developed in the army and renounce dogmas.

[Putko] Do you think that the Defense Ministry will become a civilian ministry?

[Smirnov] By no means. Military professionals must work there.

However, the defense minister is under the jurisdiction of the civilian authority—the Russian president exclusively. And he is obliged to act under Supreme Soviet control in strict accordance with Russian laws.

[Putko] All the same, while being a civilian, he must have an idea about the army?

[Smirnov] As a radioelectronics specialist in terms of his basic education, A. Kokoshin is a major authority on military-political problems. He is the head of the Center for the Conversion and Privatization of the Defense Industry, has held talks on arms limitation and reduction, and taken part in summit meetings. For a number of years A. Kokoshin was in charge of the USSR Academy of Sciences United States and Canada Institute Military-Political Studies Department. He is also the first deputy chairman of the Committee of Scientists for Global Security set up by Academician Ye. Velikhov.

Party Leaders Insist on Meeting President

LD2802150692 Moscow TASS in English 1402 GMT 28 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow February 28 TASS—Leaders of Russian political parties and movements insist on meeting President Yeltsin, heads of the new Russia Parliamentary Bloc told today's news conference at the Russian House of Soviets.

The Bloc heads accused Boris Yeltsin of "keeping himself aloof" from the idea of multi-party system development and "shifting off this matter on his staff", which, in their opinion, "is littered up" with former party apparatchiks and counteracts the holding of reforms".

Party leaders Yuriy Chernichenko, Oleg Borodin, Vladimir Falko, Vladimir Filin, Boris Orlov and Dmitriy Glinskiy expressed their concern over the economic, social and political situation that has shaped up in Russia.

They believe the president's associates "do not understand the role political parties may play under conditions of unstable balance".

Representatives of the People's, Farmers' and Social-Democratic Parties, the Christian-Democratic Movement, the Social-Liberal Association and the Young Russia Union sent a letter to Boris Yeltsin, stressing a dialogue with political parties can be held on an equal basis, "any other approach is impossible".

The document stressed the party leaders intend to put forward their proposals on correction of economic, agrarian and land reforms, as well as other areas of the governmental policy.

They would also like to discuss with Boris Yeltsin the creation of conditions for activities of political parties and movements and a mechanism of their interaction with the Russian President and Government.

Party Spokesman Describes Talks With Yeltsin

PM2802162592 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Feb 92 p 1

[Interview with I.P. Rybkin, Communists of Russia spokesman, by Albert Petrushov; place and date not given: "Council in the 'Tsar's Chambers'"]

[Text] Russian President B.N. Yeltsin's meeting with leaders of deputies' groups from the republic's Supreme Soviet in the Great Kremlin Palace was held on home ground, in the "tsar's chambers." I.P. Rybkin attended and addressed the meeting on behalf of the "Communists of Russia" faction.

[Petrushov] Ivan Petrovich, why did the president call you?

[Rybkin] Boris Nikolayevich decided to consult with us on current business and on the preparation for the Sixth Congress of RSFSR People's Deputies. Characterizing the situation, he said that the position in Russia is difficult and that he does not share Yegor Gaydar's optimism. After all, half of the Russian Federation's population is effectively below the poverty line. He noted that the West is going to give the Russian reforms great support.

Each faction's representative spoke at the meeting. The discussion was keen and impartial. In fact the president himself set the tone. In my speech I said that communists support the Russian Government until its actions conflict with working people's fundamental interests. This is a position of principle. For example, we sharply criticize the Russian Government for failing to make compensation payments in advance to pensioners, children, invalids, and underprivileged sectors of the population. The government has shown its organizational impotence here.

Nor did I avoid the question of the events in Moscow on 23 February. I reminded Boris Nikolayevich that he had stated in an interview that 23 February was a national holiday. However, everything was done to prevent it from being so. Manezh Square, Red Square, and the Aleksandrovksiy Garden were cordoned off by thousands of OMON [Special-Purpose Militia Detachment] staffers, militiamen, and soldiers. The people were prevented from reaching the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Boris Nikolayevich said that this was nothing to do with him and that City Hall and the Moscow City Soviet are to blame.

The so-called "red and brown danger" was the subject of frank comment. As is well known, B.N. Yeltsin was not elected by the absolute majority of the people. And if he wants to represent the whole Russian nation, he must think about and be concerned for the aspirations not only of those who voted for him but also those who voted against and those who opted for the American way, that is, those who voted with their feet by not turning out at all. If the president does not reconcile these three sections, history will decree otherwise. I also reminded him that even in the Russian national flag today there are three colors—white, blue, and red.

Then there was the following. Boris Nikolayevich said that to implement the reforms in a calm atmosphere we need to call a moratorium. True, he did not spell out in detail what the subject of the moratorium was to be, but he probably had in mind such actions as manifestations, demonstrations, and rallies... To be blunt no one responded to these words.

One final point. Boris Nikolayevich said that he intends to meet with the factions as much as necessary before the sixth congress of people's deputies, at least another two to three times. He is even ready to sacrifice part of his 10-day vacation.

Democratic Parties Form 'New Russia' Bloc

PM0203114792 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Feb 92 First Edition p 1

[Report by Yelena Musatova: "Elections Not Far Off"]

[Text] In November last year the Russian president signed a protocol of intent with various political organizations of democratic orientation. Several months have elapsed since then but not a single one of the points of the protocol has been fulfilled, party leaders stated at a news conference held in Russia's White House.

The political parties have been deprived of elementary conditions for work: There are no premises, there are no communications, and there is no opportunity to create their own press organs. Communicating with the president is being prevented by his entourage, a result of which has been the letter to B. Yeltsin distributed among journalists, whose signing is the last opportunity to inform him of the opinion of political leaders and their fellow fighters.

The meeting was attended by the leaders of the Peasants' Party of Russia, the People's Party of Russia, the Social Democratic Party of Russia, the Social Liberal Association of the Russian Federation, and the Young Russia

Union. They were all unanimous in their opinion of the crisis in the "Democratic Russia" movement, of which they are members. In this connection the participants adopted a decision on the creation of the "New Russia" bloc of parties. It intends to promote the creation of a powerful and independent civic movement.

The "New Russia" bloc insists that the Russian president address those political forces which supported him at the elections. Speaking to journalists, party leaders Yuriy Chcherhnichenko, Oleg Borodin, Vladimir Falko, Vladimir Filin, Boris Orlov, and Dmitriy Glinskiy voiced disquiet over the economic and sociopolitical situation which has taken shape in Russia and also over the "failure of the president's entourage to understand the role which could be played by the political parties under the conditions of the unstable 'equilibrium' that has been created."

Those assembled stated that elections on a multiparty basis will enable the people to make their choice and to determine which party's program accords with their needs. In the situation of economic destruction and pseudodemocratic nomenklatura tyranny, the decision to hold elections could be made at any minute. The "Novaya Rossiya" bloc which is being formed suggested viewing the press conference as the start of the election campaign.

'Working Russia' Adopts Statement on 'Crisis'

MK0303132392 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Mar 92 p 1

[Ye.K. report under the "In Brief" rubric: "Communists Ready To Take Power"]

[Text] The "Trudovaya Rossiya" ["Working Russia"] movement's Coordinating Council adopted a special statement 2 March expressing "its readiness to immediately assume full responsibility for really extricating Russia from the profound socioeconomic crisis." The document says that the movement "has enough competent scientists and theoreticians, practical personnel, experts, and analysts in all areas of sociopolitical and socioeconomic life" to "restore the might and national independence of the Russian Federation."

Supreme Soviet

Khasbulatov Addresses Presidium 2 Mar

Criticizes Coup Investigation

LD0203133892 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1215 GMT 2 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow, 2 Mar (TASS)—The parliamentary investigation into the reasons for and circumstances behind last August's coup d'etat will continue, today's session of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Presidium decided.

The members of the parliamentary commission which carried out the investigation will be changed at the insistance of Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet. He criticized the work of the commission which, in his opinion, has failed to meet its obligations.

Deputy Aleksey Surkov, who reported at the Presidium session on the results of the commission's investigation into all circumstances surrounding the coup, noted that a further 30 volumes from an analogous Union commission headed by Aleksandr Obolenskiy has been added to the already available evidence. The latter commission ceased to exist at the end of last year, recalled Aleksey Surkov, but it has emerged that its evidence contains quite a few facts requiring further interpretation.

Criticizes Media Coverage

OW0203184192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1329 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ruslan Khasbulatov, head of the Russian Federation's Supreme Soviet, has described as "unsatisfactory" the coverage by the media—TV in the first place—of the first conference of CIS heads of parliament that took place in Moscow on February 27.

Addressing the Supreme Soviet Presidium on Monday [2 March], Khasbulatov accused journalists of "belittling the conference's significance." He noted that "the media would undoubtedly have shown the best of performance if the conference had been disrupted."

Describing his trip to Chuvashia, Khasbulatov pointed to the need to urgently send a government delegation to that republic to deal with the economic problems facing local industry.

According to IF's [INTERFAX's] sources, later today R. Khasbulatov leaves for Italy on a private two-day trip to present his book published there.

Draft Constitution Sent to Committees

LD0203175192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1600 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] The draft of a new constitution today was forwarded to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet's standing commissions and committees for scrutiny. This was announced by Oleg Rumyantsev, the executive secretary of the constitutional commission. Asked by skeptics whether, given the economic instability, it was worthwhile involving oneself in constitutional matters, he said: If this reform fails so will the economic reform.

Appeal on Tatarstan Referendum Approved

OW0203184592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1329 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Presidium of the Russian Supreme Soviet has approved a draft appeal to the peoples of the Republic of Tatarstan in connection with the referendum to be held there on March 21. The appeal says that "no ethnic group has ever authorized its representatives to violate the Russian Federation's territorial integrity." The authors express the hope that Tatarstan's peoples will "independently orientate themselves in the complicated situation and will not succumb to the pressure of time-servers or extremist-minded separatists." The text of the appeal is expected to be confirmed by Russia's parliament on Thursday [5 March].

Later this week the parliament intends to consider a draft statement in connection with the January 22 resolution of the Latvian Supreme Council condemning the annexation of the city of Abrene and 6 districts of the Abrene region. The document described Latvia's territorial claims as groundless and warns that attempts to review the border between Russia and Latvia are inadmissible.

The territories in question (currently in the Pskov region of Russia—IF [INTERFAX]) belonged to Latvia during 20 years of its independence. After Latvia was incorporated into the USSR, the Soviet leadership ordered their transfer to the Russian Federation.

Nationalities Chairman Cited

LD0203213292 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1600 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] The Russian Supreme Soviet plans to appeal to the people of Tatarstan in connection with the republic's forthcoming referendum. This decision was taken today by the presidium of the Russian parliament. A draft appeal was presented by Ramazan Abdulatipov, chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities. He noted that the Russian Supreme Soviet respects the sovereign rights of every people and every republic and at the same time is anxious about the latest events in Tatarstan which, he said, undermine the state integrity of the Russian Federation and can seriously damage the interests of all its citizens, including those of the Tatar nationality the majority of whom historically reside outside Tatarstan. The session stressed that Russian deputies believe that the people of the Republic of Tatarstan and its supreme bodies of state power will take a wise decision. It was decided to send the draft appeal to committees and commissions of the Russian Parliament first and then to discuss it at a plenary meeting of the current Supreme Soviet session.

Presidium Votes on Role in International Banks

OW0203184692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1329 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Federation's Supreme Soviet Presidium took a ruling Monday [2 March] on the International Bank for Economic Cooperation and the International Investment Bank. The document establishes that prior to the regulation of issues on the division of the foreign debt and foreign assets of the former USSR between the former Union republics, the Russian Federation will assume all the rights and obligations of the USSR provided for in the 1963 agreement "On the Organization and Activities of the International Bank for Economic Cooperation" and the 1971 agreement "On the Formation of an International Investment Foundation." Georgiy Matyukhin, chairman of the Russian Central Bank, was appointed head of the Russian Federation's delegation in the boards of the above international banks.

The Presidium of the Russian Federation's Supreme Soviet sent a draft law on the state domestic debt to the parliament. The parliamentary commission for the budget, plan, taxes and prices estimates that the former Soviet Union's domestic debt will exceed 950 bn. [billion] rubles by the end of 1991. During 1991 the Russian Federation's domestic debt rose from 2.6 bn. to 170.8 bn. rubles. The draft law on the Russian Federation's domestic debt should given a legal form to the issue of the division of the domestic debt between the former Union republics and the subject of the Russian Federation.

Gold To Remain Under Governmental Control

LD0203141492 Moscow TASS in English 1349 GMT 2 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Galina Vinnitskaya]

[Text] Moscow March 2 TASS—The Russian Government succeeded on Monday [2 March] in convincing the Presidium of the Russian parliament that the republican gold reserve should stay under governmental control. The Presidium ruled down its own draft resolution which envisaged the transfer of the control over the reserve from the government to the Central Bank of Russia. The decision was made at the request of Yegor Gaydar, deputy premier and finance minister.

"As the major part of all produced gold is used for technical purposes, the government should maintain a certain freedom of manoeuvre", Gaydar told the Presidium.

The Presidium authorised the Central Bank and the government to jointly determine their spheres of control of the gold reserve.

Program Interviews Deputy Chairman Voronin

LD0203202492

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1545 GMT on 29 February broadcasts a 15-minute edition of the "Russian Parliamentary Herald" program in which People's Deputy Igor Zbronzhko interviews Yu.M. Voronin, deputy chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet.

Voronin gives his opinion of Russia's economic situation which is very "complicated" because of a fall in industrial output and national income as compared to last year. For this reason, parliament leaders have included the progress of economic reforms as on . of the main items on the agenda of the coming Congress of Russian People's Deputies. It is of course too early to expect any concrete results from the reforms, so the congress will have to analyse how the reforms are going in order to accelerate the implemention of these reforms. The government and the Supreme Soviet are working together on this: "I must say that the press, newspapers, and the television often express the idea of some kind of confrontation between the Supreme Soviet and the government. I would not agree with such a point of view. I can say that in particular our economic sector works very closely with the heads of government, with all the ministries and departments which are concerned with the economic sphere." There are, of course, failings. The government has not examined closely enough all of Russia's economic areas. The majority of industry is in state hands and this should have been taken into account when preparing the reforms, and it was not. Prices cannot be freed when there is a monopoly on production as the interests of the monopolists do not coincide with real life. For this reason Yeltsin has had to issue a decree on measures to stabilize the work of Russian industry. Prices have risen much more than predicted which creates a heavy burden for the consumer. This is particularly dangerous for the agricultural complex which is not now buying machinery as the price of tractors has risen 15-20 times. "The government must take this into account, and I think that together with the government we will introduce the necessary ammendments to the reform program." Another area both the government and the Supreme Soviet must work on is the protection of the poorer part of the population which has so far been insufficient. Measures are in hand—a presidential decree on the matter: "We are talking about paying during that complicated period of time, March, April, maybe May, the less well-off sections of the population, pensioners, say 200 rubles each; parents, women with children about 100 rubles each and so on. To some degree this will allow us to compensate for the sharp increase in prices for basic food products." The government and the Supreme Soviet are now also working on changing the minimum level for pensions and wages. At present this is 342 rubles, but this will be at least doubled. Another major issue to be discussed at the congress is the social and economic condition of the north and similiar areas, which make up 60 percent of Russian territory. These areas have always been sources of raw materials for Russia but never been sufficienty developed socially—this needs to be studied, and a program is to be prepared to develop these areas in the social sphere. A group has been studying how Supreme Soviet decisions are being implemented locally, and this issue will also be on the congress agenda. It may be necessary to revise how decisions are implemented.

Deputy Shumeyko Answers Viewers' Questions

LD2902131692

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 0915 GMT on 29 February carries a 45-minute edition of the "How Will We Live" program. The program is hosted by Irina Lapina and features Vladimir Shumeyko, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, as the live phone-in guest.

Shumeyko says he believes that the reforms have been preceded by proper legislative groundwork. The road to a democratic society lies in the creation of a class of property-owners operating in a market economy. He says that the new constitution must reflect this. He notes that constitutional committee is at work now and that the constitution must be adopted as soon as possible.

Asked about the composition of the Russian Federation, Shumeyko says that the "regional independence declarations are based on a utilitarian view that sovereignty is a shortcut to economic improvement," with nationalism added. Shumeyko says that Russia must not fall apart, as the situation will get better on this score when the economy improves.

Asked about commodity exchanges, Shumeyko says: "They are making money out of poor information about how much goods cost in different parts of the CIS." In regard to the drop in the exchange rate for the dollar against the ruble, Shumeyko says there is no single main reason for this, and that gradually the rate will become more and more realistic. He states that the market depends on people understanding that they must rely on themselves above all. Privatization, Shumeyko says, must be carried out strictly within the regulations.

Asked whether it is democratic to ban the Communist Party, Shumeyko says: "It is not the party that was banned, but the power structure. It is the latter that was banned." As for the Supreme Soviet's criticism of the government, he call this constructive criticism.

Shumeyko then answers a question on the latest position on commercial taxes, saying that the whole issue will be sorted out eventually. Asked about the politicization of parliament, Shumeyko says this is inevitable as "groupings exist in all parliaments." He goes on to note that bilateral agreements approved by Russia are designed to protect the interests of Russian minorities in other CIS countries and national minorities within Russia. He adds that the forthcoming congress will decide the procedure for bringing in the new constitution. Continuing his answers to questions on the Supreme Soviet, he notes that the Higher Economic Council is designed "to look at regional policy in the market reform" drive. The council reports back to the Supreme Soviet and does not interfere in executive decisions.

Questioned on the printing of money, Shumeyko says that inflation continues, but that a political decision has been made not to bring in a Russian currency for the time being. Looking ahead, Shumeyko says if people find faith in their strength, they will survive and succeed.

Working Group Views Draft on Delimitation

PM0203110992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Feb 92 First Edition p 1

[Russian Federation Supreme Soviet press center report: "Working Group Session"]

[Text] A working group under the leadership of Yu.F. Yarov, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, has examined the preliminary results of the discussion of the draft agreement on the delimitation of subjects of administration and powers. The participants in the session noted with satisfaction that the draft has already met with extensive support in a number of oblasts and in the Altay and Mordovia. Moreover, two oblasts (Belgorod and Ivanovo), at the decision of their soviets, have already signed the agreement.

At the same time some republics are in favor of signing a federative treaty instead of the agreement. The Supreme Soviet leadership is studying this proposal which, however, does not contradict the right of oblasts, krays, and autonomous formations to sign the agreement. Especially as many participants in the discussion are militating for this to be done as soon as possible and for legal force to be given to the agreement.

Resolution on Control of Security Services

PM2802164192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Feb 92 First Edition p 5

["Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Resolution on Parliamentary Control Over the Activity of Russian Federation State Security and Foreign Intelligence Service Organs"; dated 21 February 1992, Moscow, and signed by Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Chairman R.I. Khasbulatov]

[Text] With a view to exercising constant control by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet over the activities of state security and foreign intelligence organs the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet **resolves**:

1. To establish Russian Federation Supreme Soviet control over the activity of state security and foreign intelligence organs in the following spheres:
the main areas and nature of operational activity;
the implementation of cadre policy;
approval of the budget and control over its expenditure;
observance of human rights and the rule of law in the activities of security and foreign intelligence organs.

2. To entrust control functions over the activity of state security and foreign intelligence organs to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Committee for Defense and Security Questions and a Russian Federation Supreme Soviet plenipotentiary provisional commission.

The Committee and commission are instructed to submit their conclusions and proposals by 1 July 1992 for discussion at a closed sitting of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet.

3. The president of the Russian Federation is advised to refrain from further reorganization of state security and foreign intelligence organs until the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet has discussed the conclusions and proposals of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Committee on Defense and Security Questions and of the provisional commission.

[Signed] R.I. Khasbulatov, Russian Federation Supreme Soviet chairman.

Moscow, The House of the Soviets of Russia, 21 February 1992. No. 2398-1

Resolution Enacts Budgetary System Law

PM0203125192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Feb 92 First Edition p 3

[Resolution No. 2247-1 of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet "On Bringing into Force the Russian Federation Law 'On the Budgetary System of the Russian Federation for the First Quarter of 1992'", signed by Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Chairman R.I. Khasbulatov and dated Moscow, The House of Soviets of Russia, 24 January 1992]

[Text] The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet resolves:

1. To ratify the conclusion of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet chambers' standing commissions and committees on the draft of the Russian Federation budgetary system for the first quarter of 1992.

2. To record the unsatisfactory standard of materials on the draft of the Russian Federation budgetary system for the first quarter of 1992 submitted to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet.

3. The Russian Federation Government should:
a) implement in February 1992 the necessary amplifications to indicators of the Russian Federation budgetary system for the first quarter of 1992, on the basis of the conclusion of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet chambers' standing commissions and committees and taking into account the remarks and proposals made at the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet session, and

coordinate them with the Councils of Ministers of republics in the Russian Federation and the organs of executive power in national-state and administrative-territorial formations, having also made provisions for the allocation of budgetary appropriations from additionally mobilized revenue and a reduction in funds held in reserve for the paramount tasks in the agro-industrial complex, research and development, the financing of enterprises under conversion, and social support for the population;
b) implement amplifications to indicators of the Russian Federation budgetary system for the first quarter of 1992 in accordance with the results for the first two months of 1992, and submit them for scrutiny by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet;
c) submit to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet a budgetary statement for the second quarter of 1992 and for the year 1992 no later than 10 March 1992;
d) submit to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet a schedule for coordinating the budgets of national-state and administrative-territorial formations for the second quarter of 1992 and for the year 1992 with a view to involving representatives of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet chambers' standing commissions and committees in this work;
e) submit for ratification by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet reports on the implementation of the RSFSR state budget for 1990 and the Russian Federation republic budget for 1991 no later than May 1992.

4. The necessary amplifications to the expenditure of the Russian Federation republic budget for the first quarter of 1992 for financing geological surveying and prospecting work should be implemented following the adoption of the Russian Federation Law "On Mineral Resources."

[Signed] Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Chairman R.I. Khasbulatov
[Dated] Moscow, House of Soviets of Russia, 24 January 1992
No. 2247-1

Comparison of Resolution on Use of 'Russia'

CM0203184292

Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian on 28 February 1992 carries in its First Edition on page 2 the apparent text of Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Resolution No. 2355-1. Comparison of the ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA item, entitled "On the Procedure for Using the Names 'Russia' and 'Russian Federation' and Words and Combinations of Words Formed on the Basis of Them in the Names of Organizations and Other Structures," with the translation of the Moscow TASS Russian version, which was published in the 26 February Central Eurasia DAILY REPORT on page 44, reveals the following variation:

Column one, paragraph four, single sentence reads: ...Federation should ensure during 1992 that the registration... (adding "during 1992").

Regional Affairs

Yeltsin Signs Decree on Bashkiria Economy

LD0203230492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin has signed a decree on urgent measures to stabilize the economy, develop the social sphere, and protect the environment of Bashkiria. The document envisages increasing this year's quota of exports for oil and petroleum products. Seventy-five percent of currency receipts from the export of products will remain at the disposal of the republic's Council of Ministers and the producing enterprises, says the RIKA news agency.

Mission for Cooperation Formed

PM0103191192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Feb 92 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed, untitled report under the "Official Chronicle" rubric]

[Text] By a decree of the Russian Federation president, a permanent Republic of Bashkortostan mission under the Russian Federation president has been established in order to ensure collaboration between the highest executive organs of power of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Bashkortostan. Yuriy Skokov, secretary of the Commission Under the Russian Federation President for Elaborating Proposals on the Status, Structure, and Working Methods of the Russian Federation Security Council, has been charged with ensuring the coordination of collaboration between the Republic of Bashkortostan Government and the Russian Federation president's administration.

Retains Foreign Exchange Percentage

OW2902154392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1259 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Bashkortostan, an autonomous republic off the Urals forming part of Russia, is entitled to retain 75% of foreign-exchange revenues from exports produced by the republic's enterprises. In addition, in keeping with Boris Yeltsin's decree, Bashkortostan will increase oil and petrochemicals exports. Export licenses for these products will be granted by a representative of the Russian foreign economic relations ministry in Bashkiria.

Revenues from the export increase will be invested in environmental protection projects and modernization of the republic's oil-producing and oil-processing industries.

Moscow Security Chief Savostyanov Interviewed

PM0203154492 Moscow NEW TIMES in English No 4, Jan 92 pp 12-14

[Interview with Yevgeniy Savostyanov, head of Moscow City and Oblast Federal Security Agency, by Leonid Mlechin; place and date not given: "Take the Prisoner Out!"—first five paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] "Take the prisoner in!"

Every organization has its jokes. These were the words used by the officer on duty when he ordered a public relations officer to let me into the main office. Rising to meet me was a charming man whose grayish beard and disarming smile symbolized changes in the security service. But aren't the changes themselves purely symbolic?

The first question I asked was about the man's official title.

When Moscow Mayor Popov appointed his former colleague scientist Yevgeniy Savostyanov to this office, the latter's position was head of the KGB Department for Moscow and the Moscow Region. After Yeltsin issued his decree on the merger of the police and security force, Savostyanov became head of the Moscow and Moscow Region Department of the Ministry of Security and Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation. Then the decree was abolished and he became head of the Moscow and Moscow Region Department of the Federal Security Agency.

The Russian flag has replaced the portraits of Dzherzhinskiy and Gorbachev in Savostyanov's huge office. The only portrait in the room was a photograph showing Savostyanov in the pleasant company of Armadiy Murashev, a democratic leader appointed head of the Moscow police force.

NEW TIMES. In his interview with NEW TIMES [NT] your friend and political ally Murashev said your department had nothing to do as a result of societal changes. Do you agree?

This malicious question made no impression on Savostyanov.

Yevgeniy Savostyanov [Y.S.]. It is only logical that people who are not members of this organization do not know what we do here.

NT. And what is it that you do here?

Y.S. We have officially formulated objectives: intelligence, counterintelligence, economic security, information and analysis, anti-terrorist activities and efforts against organized crime... However, it is not only this organization's status that has changed—the whole country has changed and this means that there will be new objectives and new tasks. I have recently spoken to the Foreign Minister and we agreed that the state has to formulate its national political priorities and define the real dangers that this country may face. After that the objectives of the secret service will be more clearly defined.

NT. It is very often suggested that your organization join the anti-crime ffort.

Y.S. The criminal cases we deal with are mostly connected with contraband. In my opinion, though, it should not be our objective to fight crime. Our task in this field should be limited to fighting organized crime groups with strong ties to the state, apparat and law-enforcers. The Ministry for Internal Affairs could in principle take care of terrorists, too.

The charming smile did not for a second disappear from the face of the head of the Moscow secret police. He never hesitated to answer, remembering, though, that the purpose of his discussion with me was to obscure the main things rather than to make them clear.

NT. For some reason you are not mentioning the main objective of the KGB.

The answer was simple.

Y.S. After the August coup we are not responsible for the functions of the political police. In fact, though, the fulfilment of such functions could be one of our major objectives.

An unexpected utterance for the democratic mayor's appointee. New people were appointed to the KGB to change things, while the new Moscow secret police chief is speaking about resuming the old functions.

Savostyanov was ready to answer.

Y.S. Political police structures exist in many democratic states. We are not the only society that understands how negative processes can begin and destroy the state. Let me remind you of the law on radicals which is in force in Germany. It would be useful if a similar law were adopted here to remain in force until the democratic structures are firmly established.

NT. Have you already shared your views with anyone? What was the reaction?

Y.S. It is still belived here that there is no need for an internal political intelligence service. I know, however, that some leaders would very much like us to do the job. I think that after some initial hesitation we will be given direct orders to monitor the political temparature in the state and to watch the social strata who may wish to stage a forceful overthrow of the existing regime, as is done in other countries. I am afraid, however, that by the time such orders come we will have lost the competent cadres.

NT. Do you mean that the Moscow state security department is not monitoring the political developments?

Y.S. We do not monitor political sentiments. I am the only officer in this organization who is engaged in that. I have good ties with many democratic movements and I have a more or less clear impression of what is going on there. However, democratic movements are not the structures which may constitute a threat to the state.

NT. Do you collect compromising material on political leaders?

Y.S. No, we do not.

NT. What about the people who used to do it? What about your agents?

Y.S. Our network of agents is dormant now. Actually, as far as I could judge from the documents I studied, the KGB did not have as many agents in public organizations as people used to believe it had. There are few reasons for the democrats to be accusing each other of cooperating with the KGB. There were a lot of agents in religious organizations, though.

Savostyanov's words surprised me. The KGB archives remain out of public scrutiny, but the experience of East Germany shows that the East German security service, Stasi, operated an extensive network of agents and informers in all public organizations.

Y.S. This practice was stopped immediately after the August coup.

NT. Aren't there organizations in Moscow and the region which constitute a threat to the state?

Savostyanov spread his hands?

Y.S. To answer this, I must know what is going on in the organizations you talk about. To know this, I have to operate an extensive network of agents. This is not one of our objectives and the public is strongly opposed to the use of agents.

NT. You could refer to world experience. The Ministry of Justice could make up a list of subversive and dangerous organizations and your organization could then start watching them.

Y.S. The Ministry of Justice has to conduct some form of an investigation to define an organization as subversive. We are the only agency that can carry out such an investigation. During the recent demonstration in the very centre of Moscow I saw a poster calling for the physical elimination of Yeltsin.

NT. What was your reaction?

Y.S. I just shook my head and thought how right I had been when I risked my reputation and demanded the resumption of political police functions at a sitting of the parliamentary National Security Committee. What can I do now? TV crews go to those meetings and videotape people there. As for me, I cannot send my camera crew there.

NT. This is a difficult problem. When the German police force was allowed to take pictures of demonstrators, the liberal intellectuals resolutely opposed the practice...

Y.S. Nonetheless, the German police was allowed to take pictures...

NT. From what you have just said one concludes that you have a very vague vision of what is going on in society now. On the other hand, you are believed to be the best-informed person in Moscow.

Y.S. I do not have a complete vision of the political situation. I do not know what is going on inside various parties, political organizations and movements, I cannot make political portraits of their leaders or predict the prospects of political mergers or divisions.

NT. What about your colleagues from the Federal Security Agency? Is their vision of the situation in Russia as vague as yours?

Y.S. I'd rather speak about myself, if you don't mind.

NT. What is your opinion about the numerous warnings about rebellions, uprisings, and disturbances out in the street?

Y.S. My opinion is the same as yours. I understand that this prospect may be quite realistic in certain circumstances.

NT. Are you pessimistic about the future?

Y.S. Paradoxically, I am growing more and more optimistic with every passing day. In general, the people have realized that there is no alternative to political and economic reform. It is necessary to stay calm and remain moderate. Excesses can ruin the whole process. Uncompromised attitudes are highly dangerous. One must heed the opponent's opinion and try to understand that opinion.

NT. How do you manage to combine your service in a paramilitary organization with your own political views?

Y.S. So far there have been no major contradictions, I do not feel divided.

NT. Don't you ever receive orders which are incompatible with your political views?

Y.S. Every one of us thinks that he or she knows better than others. One has to keep one's ambitions at bay. If you consider each new disagreement with your superiors as a personal tragedy, nothing good will ever come out of your efforts. One has to work normally until something happens that contradicts one's fundamental convictions. In this case one would have to resign.

NT. However, isn't it contradictory that a pro-democratic person is the head of the secret police?

Y.S. What about George Bush? He was director of the CIA but no one doubts the sincerity of his convictions. The KGB does not exist. One has to get used to the thought that this is a new country with new structures.

NT. Do you feel alone among professionals or are there any other people like you here?

Y.S. There is Stepashin who is the head of the St. Petersburg department. However, he previously worked for the Ministry for Internal Affairs. Well, I can say I am an exception.

In addition to a big desk, the office also has a long conference table.

NT. How do you feel at conferences when you are surrounded by people who have served here for decades?

Y.S. So far I've felt quite confident and competent. I'd like to note, rather immodestly, that my viewpoint is very often shared by my colleagues.

N.T. Don't you think there is a special caste of people here who are forced to tolerate your presence, but would rather discuss things in your absence?

Y.S. It's only natural that they feel like discussing some things without me. I do not see any serious alienation, though.

N.T. Aren't you afraid they may let you down one day?

Y.S. If they really wanted to do that, they would have done so already.

NT. They couldn't do it so soon, after all you enjoy the patronage of the Moscow and Russian administrations.

Y.S. OK, then they don't want to let me down.

NT. Do you think you are in control in your Agency? Do you know everything that is happening in this building? Do you know all that is on the minds of your personnel?

Y.S. I know enough. I do not think I really need to know everything here. I wish to stress that we have all entered a new society. If you think that all people working here were entirely devoted to the Communist regime, you are mistaken.

NT. They are people who liked the totalitarian regime and hated democracy, liberalism and freedom.

Y.S. You are mistaken again. They were very well informed. They knew a lot and they understood a lot. It's a mistake to think they were idiots, who...

NT. It's not idicoy. Simply, it's hatred for freedom of thought, for freedom in general...

Y.S. There are such people and I occasionally meet them.

NT. Don't you try to get rid of them?

ES. I don't try to get rid of anyone.

NT. Have you already adapted here?

Y.S. Yes, I have.

NT. Aren't you afraid of becoming a part of this system?

Y.S. There is no need to be afraid. I have not come here to become a part of the old KGB. I am here to help reorganize this machine and turn it to a respected agency which is really necessary for the state. We do not bug people's phones on political grounds, we do not gather compromising material on people. We are doing a job which is seen as necessary and prestigeous in any society.

NT. Have you made a lot of personnel changes?

Y.S. Almost none. What's the use of firing professional intelligence or counterintellitgence officers? The only thing one has to do is to explain to them which secrets they are to guard. However, many of them are heavily indoctrinated, and this is something we have to remedy.

NT. When you first came here and talked to your staff, did it occur to you that you would have to work side by side with the people who had inspired fear?

Y.S. The people have never inspired fear. It was their functions that did.

NT. By virtue of their profession, the majority of these people have had to tell lies all the time. Telling lies corrupts one's personality and makes one insincere.

Y.S. Are there any people in this country who have not told lies? Journalists have also told a lot of lies.

NT. However, your colleagues tried harder than others.

Y.S. I agree. They have more sins to confess. However, the whole society has lived through it. Our children will be different. Actually, I could have fired everybody, like they did in 1917, and then staff the department with new people. We have chosen another way: we put new tasks to the old people.

The special communication phone rang and I understood it was time to go. I left the office sensing the office occupant's compassionate stare.

The officer on duty picked up the receiver and said: "Take the prisoner out."

Dudayev Issues Decree on Judicial Relations

LD0203172792 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1600 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] President Dzhakhar Dudayev has issued a decree on implementation in the Chechen Republic of rulings by foreign courts and arbitration tribunals. Henceforth, the only foreign court and arbitration rulings to be honored will be those of the judiciary of countries that have recognized the independence of Chechenya and concluded with it an international treaty on reciprocal legal assistance. Since as of today not one foreign state has recognized Chechenya, even the blackest of villains can feel safe and sound under the wing of this independent republic.

Dudayev Complains of Russian 'Economic Blockade'

LD0303133992 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] Dzhakhar Dudayev, president of the Chechen Republic, has sent a government telegram to Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation, which notes that, in spite of the fact that the Chechen Republic is keeping up with supply agreements, the Russian authorities are continuing with a financial and economic blockade. The Russian debt to the Chechen Republic exceeds one billion rubles. At the same time, the republic's workers are not receiving their salaries, pensions or benefits. The president requests that money should be made available to the republic within three days. Otherwise it reserves the right to cease supplies of industrial output, including oil and chemical products.

Khabarovsk Hosts 'German Immigrants' Conference

PM0303153992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Mar 92 First Edition p 1

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, ITAR-TASS column report under "In Brief" rubric]

[Text] The central theme of the founding conference of German immigrants held in Khabarovsk yesterday was the idea of the unification of all Germans of the Amur region. More than 4,000 Germans now live in the kray. The public association formed at the conference considers its main task the revival of the people's culture, language, and customs. In the words of one of the organizers of the association—Viktor Bezgans—the Far East has become a second homeland for the majority of Amur region Germans, and they want to continue to live and work here.

Oil Deposits May Yield 45 Million Tonnes

LD2802165792 Moscow TASS in English 1434 GMT 28 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Yelmakov]

[Text] Novosibirsk February 28 TASS—New oil deposits in Eastern Siberia and Yakutia may yield some seven million tonnes of oil a year by the year 2000, and their output may rise subsequently to 45 million tonnes, the Presidium of the Siberian branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences was told at its session on Friday [28 February].

As oil production in Russia slumps, finding new major oil deposits in this region acquires acute urgency. The session met to discuss results of work of scientists from Novosibirsk, Moscow, Leningrad, Irkutsk, Tyumen, Yakutsk and other cities who were commissioned by the Russian Government to provide scientific substantiation for the development of the oil and gas industry in Eastern Siberia.

Academician Andrey Trofimuk, a veteran of oil prospecting in Siberia, stunned the meeting when he said that up to 100 million tonnes of oil a year may be produced in the Krasnoyarsk region alone.

Murmansk Waste Disposal Facility Questioned

LD0203170392

[Editorial Report] Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian in the "Novosti" newscast at 1200 GMT on 2 March carries a two-minute report by A. Krutov from Murmansk on the nuclear waste disposal facility which is engaged in removing used fuel from the North Sea Fleet nuclear submarine reactors.

The fuel is being unloaded in close proximity of the Murmansk residential areas. The employees of the facility whom he interviews, including head of the radiation safety services Y.G.Smirnov, are firmly convinced that there is no danger of radiation contamination here. Video shows personnel involved in the process of unloading the nuclear reactor.

In spite of the firm assurances by the personnel that there is absolutely no danger of an accident, the correspondent reports that head of the Murmansk administration Komarov has recently issued orders that work at this facility should be suspended. The question remains: for how long and what next? At the moment, Krutov says, there are nearly 90 nuclear submarines in the CIS fleets, many of which are already too old and dangerous to use, and only the government can deal with the problem of their future disposal.

Gold Nuggets Auction To Be Held in Yakutsk

OW2902150992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1259 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On March 25 and 26, the first auction of gold nuggets will be held in Yakutsk. The auction is organized by the Gold of Yakutia concern, by Yakutia's Russian Gold and Diamonds Exchange and by the Yakut commodity, raw-materials and stock exchange.

The auction will also handle semi-precious stones and raw materials, and articles made of precious metals, rare northern semi-precious stones and mammoth bone.

Various articles will be presented by the Gold of Yakutia Concern, by the Yakutalmaz amalgamation, by the Vostok-kvarts-samotsvety expedition, by a number of mining enterprises and by Northern ethnic groups.

The auction invites entrepreneurs from the CIS and from abroad.

Telephone in Yakutsk: 2-86-55;

Round-the-clock fax: 411-222-58-54.

Tuva Supreme Council Releases Documents

OW0103181892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1544 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Supreme Council of Tuva holding a session in Kyzyl made public documents related to Tuva's accession to the USSR and the Russian Federation in 1944. Supreme Council Chairman Kadyr-Ool Bichildei said that the way the documents were registered ran counter to the constitution of the USSR, Russia and Tuva since all the decisions were made by Presidiums and not by Supreme Soviets (parliaments).

As was revealed at the session, the secrecy which surrounded the documents produced a paradoxical fact that Tuva was still technically at war with Germany.

At the same time, Tuva's MP [member of parliament] Vyacheslav Salchak said that discussing Tuva's accession to the USSR and the RSFSR on the eve of a presidential election in the republic scheduled for March 15 has further aggravated an already tense social and political situation in Tuva.

International Affairs

President Criticizes Kazakh Nuclear Stand

LD2702225792 Berlin ADN in German 1944 GMT 27 Feb 92

[Text] Kiev (ADN)—Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk has criticized Kazakhstan's intention to keep the nuclear weapons stationed there. In a conversation in Kiev today with the vice president of the Socialist International, Social Democratic Party politician Hans-Jochen Vogel, Kravchuk said that without an alliance with Russia, Kazakhstan could not be a nuclear power because it has no technology for build nuclear bombs. Only Russia and Ukraine possess this. Ukraine will destroy not only nuclear weapons, but also the technology for their manufacture. As Belarus also wants to be a nuclear weapons-free country, only Russia will remain a nuclear power in the CIS.

Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev recently stated that the nuclear weapons of the former Soviet Army stationed in his country will not be withdrawn and destroyed as long as other nuclear powers do not do the same.

Kravchuk Discusses Army With French Official

LD0203191292 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1812 GMT 2 Mar 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Anatoliy Grigoryev]

[Text] Kiev, 2 Mar [TASS]—Ukraine is adhering consistently to its decisions on disarmament and cutbacks in the Armed Forces. To date 57 percent of tactical nuclear weapons sited on the territory of Ukraine have been removed beyond its borders and by July of this year all tactical nuclear installations are to be dismantled and removed beyond the borders of the republic. This was reported today by Leonid Kravchuk, president of Ukraine, during a conversation with Jacques Mellick, French secretary of state to the minister of defense, who is in Kiev.

According to Leonid Kravchuk, preparations within the republic for a conversion program costing a total of $2.5 billion are currently in their final phase. At the same time, he stressed, it is essential to maintain the rocket and space sector, which is on the frontline in terms of science and technology. France too could play a more active part in solving this problem.

Jacques Mellick expressed the readiness of the French Government to take specific steps in developing cooperation with Ukraine, perceived in France as a peace-loving state. In particular, he proposed exchanging experience of managing defense enterprises and the functioning of the national gendarmerie. The notion of possibly appointing two military attaches to the French Embassy in Ukraine was mooted.

During the conversation which took place in an atmosphere of openness and goodwill, there was also a discussion of the prospects for the development of the CIS, the Crimean questions, and other problems.

Taking part in the conversation was Pernet, temporary French charge d'affaires in Ukraine.

Agreement on Currencies Reached With Russia

LD2802165692 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1512 GMT 28 Feb 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Mikhail Melnik for TASS]

[Text] Kiev, 28 Feb (TASS)—Ukraine and Russia have reached agreement on introducing national currencies. This follows from the communique on the problem of coordinating efforts to put national monetary units into circulation which was signed in Kiev today at the meeting of the interparliamentary commission of the Ukraine and the Russian Federation.

The document says that in the zone in which the ruble is used as the legal means of payment, all the cash in the territory of the former USSR is to be shared out among the former states in the sums which were on the corresponding territories at the moment of the share-out. In particular, the cash which was on the territory of Ukraine and Russia is their own property.

Ukraine, in particular, will introduce its national currency into noncash circulation in the following way: All balances in rubles in all types of bank accounts belonging both to residents and to nonresidents at the moment when the reform is carried out will be converted into the national currency in accordance with a single principle and from then on they will be accounted in the new currency. Any payments in rubles made to recipients on the territory of Ukraine will be acquired by commercial banks at the established exchange rate and the recipients will be credited with the corresponding amount in national currency from the funds of the bank which acquired the rubles. The National Bank of Ukraine can grant stabilizing credits in rubles but only by using credits granted by the Russian Central Bank.

Many disputed matters arose during discussion of the sharing out of the gold reserves, the diamond and foreign currency reserves, the property of the USSR abroad, the foreign debt of the USSR to other states and vice versa, and also the sharing out of the resources of the USSR State Bank and special banks of the USSR. The sides concluded that it is necssary to set up an interstate commission to determine the size of the gold reserve and other foreign currency valuables of the former USSR. An accord has been reached on the future fate of securities.

The document will now be examined by parliamentarians of Ukraine and Russia and will come into force after they ratify it.

Crimean Turks Strive for 'Autonomous Region'

TA0203160992 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1520 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] Simferopol'—Ankara (AA)—Leader of the Crimean Turks Cemil Kirimoglu on Monday [2 March] said the majority of half a million Crimean Turks living in exile wish to return to their own lands but can't because of financial problems.

Kirimoglu who met with Trade and Industry Minister Tahir Kose currently on an official visit in Crimea, spoke to reporters at Simferopol' Airport and said his country expects economic aid from Turkey.

He also said he held meetings with Turkish businessmen in Bahcesaray who will present them with cooperation and investment possibilities at a later date.

Answering a question on their political aims, Kirimoglu said the Soviet government had recognized the genocide against Crimean Turks in 1989 and promised to help them return to Crimea.

"But since the dissolution of the Soviet Union, no one has wanted to take the responsibility in helping us," Kirimoglu said.

He said they recently met with a senior official from the offices of the Russian leader Boris Yeltsin, and during this meeting the Russian Federation has proposed to help them.

Kirimoglu also said their aim is to establish a national autonomous republic within Ukraine.

Government Appoints Permanent Envoy to UN

LD0203211492 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1815 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] Kiev, 2 March [UKRINFORM-TASS]—Viktor Batyuk has been appointed Ukraine's permanent representative at the United Nations. He has been awarded the diplomatic rank of extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador of Ukraine. Gennadiy Udovenko has been released from these duties in connection with a transfer to other work. Ukraine's President Leonid Kravchuk issued a number of decrees today concerning the republic's mission at the United Nations.

Viktor Batyuk is a Ukrainian, born in 1939. He is a graduate of the Moscow State Institute of International Relations. He speaks English, Bengali, Polish, and French. He has been in diplomatic work for more than 30 years. He is a member of Ukraine's Union of Writers and does interpreting and translation work. He is married and has three children.

National Affairs

Article Views Possible Ethnic Division

PM0203163592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Feb 92 First Edition p 7

[Article by Irina Kaspiyeva under "Nearby Foreign Parts" rubric: "Ukraine: Single But Divisible?"]

[Text] Is the Ukraine threatened with the experience of the USSR, a major role in whose disintegration was played by political forces playing the "national card"?

Ukraine occupies fourth place in Europe according to population size, having more than 52 million inhabitants of over 110 nationalities. According to the latest census, there are 37 million Ukrainians (65 percent of the population): 11.35 million Russians (about 20 percent); 486,000 Jews; 440,000 Belorussians; and others.

The growth of national patriotic movements in recent years has been accompanied by an increased concern on the part of minorities not wishing to undergo "forced Ukrainianization." And recently Western countries have been demanding that human rights be observed in the former Union republics as an indispensable condition for their international recognition. It is obvious that this circumstance may account for the accelerated tempo of the adoption in Ukraine of new laws at the end of last year. These laws have made national contradictions less acute. Above all, there is the the "Declaration of the Rights of National Minorities," which essentially guarantees minorities unimpeded use of their native language in places densely populated by them. In addition, these laws have laid the juridical basis for forming autonomies on the republic's territory, which has helped the government to stabilize the situation in a number of regions.

For example, in the Transcarpathian region, where there have been notable attempts to create two new territorial formations at once: a Subcarpathian [Podkarpatskaya] Republic and a Hungarian Autonomous National Okrug. The idea of a Subcarpathian Republic has been actively advocated by the Union of Carpathian Ruthenians and the Democratic National Transcarpathian League. The Ukrainian Government and parliament have been able to prevent the emergence of a sovereign formation here. It was decided to create a self-governing administrative-territorial entity in the Transcarparthian region, not belonging to any other administrative-territorial formations but a subject within an independent Ukraine. But the positive responses to the creation of the Hungarian Autonomous National Okrug among the population of Mukachevskiy, Vinogradovskiy, and Uzhgorodskiy Rayons have forced the government to make further concessions: to resume the simplified movement of local inhabitants across the border with Hungary.

Autonomy is sought for different reasons in the multinational territories. Here people fear the economic degradation of their regions, closely integrated as they are into the system of economic relations of the former Union. The recognition by industrial regions of the principal of Ukraine's territorial integrity is, as a rule, accompanied by a demand for something in return. The latest example is the appeal of leaders and deputies' groups of the Crimean Supreme Soviet and the Nikolayev, Odessa, and Kherson Oblast Soviets of People's Deputies to the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet and the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers requesting the creation of a free economic zone in the Ukrainian Black Sea region.

However, such zones are also no panacea against separatism, given the long-term plan to create in a free Black Sea region a separate currency and customs regulations: Such a zone could be merely a transitional form for full autonomy.

The Ukrainian leadership's attitude toward the Crimea occupies a special position. Kiev's uncompromising rejection of its self-determination is to be explained by an unwillingness to resign itself not only to the loss of an important geopolitical region but to the breakaway of a territory with a sizable population. At the present time Kiev's policy with regard to the Crimea is rather prosaic—to "reduce" the percentage of the Russian population by producing the maximum quantity of citizens devoted to Ukraine's policy and not inclined to reminisce about a "lost Russian homeland."

None of this means that, if Ukraine does succeed in settling the problem of the "Crimean territories," it will be ensured against all territorial repartition in the future. Romania's claims to the south of Bessarabia and to North Bukovina, which were incorporated in Ukraine in 1940 by the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact, should not be forgotten. The Romanian Government links official recognition of Ukrainian independence to the handing over of "age-old Romanian lands," since they belong to no one except Romania, neither "de facto" (the country which annexed them no longer exists as a consequence of the annulment of the 1922 Union Treaty), nor "de jure" (there are no treaties which transfer the territories to Ukraine).

The situation is exacerbated by the fact that about 20 percent of the inhabitants of Chernovtsy Oblast are Moldovans (Romanians), while in the Dnestr region, which is striving to secede from Moldova because of fears of the latter's merging with Romania, the corresponding figures are 40 percent Romanian, 28 percent Ukrainian, and 25 percent Russian. It is quite probable that the "zero" option may emerge in the process of talks between Ukraine, Moldova, and Romania and that each state will be left with the territory belonging to it today.

It can be assumed that, despite [Ukrainian President] Leonid Kravchuk's statement about his readiness to build an exceptionally cohesive [sobornyy], unified and indivisible democratic Ukraine, he will be forced to acknowledge the need for a state-administrative structure on the lines of a confederation of self-governing territories possessing broad executive, but not legislative, functions.

Search for Radioactive Ampule Requested

AU0303091092 Ivano-Frankivsk HALYCHYNA in Ukrainian 18 Feb 92 p 1

[UKRINFORM report from Rivne on search for lost ampule containing radioactive substance: "Ampule Wanders in the World"]

[Text] Rivne [town in Ukraine]. The leadership of the Sarny granite quarry sent an urgent telegram to 25 addresses of consumers of ballast in Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, and Baltic countries. The suppliers request the consumers to find, amidst the hundreds of tonnes of their products, a steel ampule containing a highly radioactive source of radiation—cesium-137—which had been mounted on the single-channel gamma-relay instrument GRPI-1. As it turned out, this ampule disappeared last year as a result of negligence on the part of maintenance personnel. It has a power of 0.22 Curie units and its emission constitutes a health hazard.

Commentary on Ampules

AU2902161292 Ivano-Frankivsk HALYCHYNA in Ukrainian 6 Feb 92 p 2

[Commentary by Oleksiy Kiriyak, chief physician of the Oblast Sanitary and Epidemiologic Center: "Bovshiv: Who Has Stolen the Radioactive Ampules?"]

[Text] Nobody remained indifferent to the tragic accident in Kramatorsk where a powerful radioactive source was lost as a result of carelessness on the part of officials of a granite quarry, an accident that claimed several lives. Newspapers informed the readers about the state of affairs and about the consequences of the tragedy (IZVESTIYA, 23 January 1992).

The carelessness and irresponsibility repeatedly became the cause of tragedies for which we had to pay. Who will be the victim this time?

Four radioisotope instruments disappeared from the Bovshiv sugar factory. These instruments, similar to those in Kramatorsk, had been used for measuring the level of reservoirs. These instruments were dismantled back in 1973. Since that time, they "wandered" from one storehouse to another. It goes without saying that, over such a long time, the documents specifying the type of the level gauges or their characteristics were also lost.

It is common knowledge that radioisotope technology is introduced into production with permission and under supervision of the oblast sanitary epidemiologic center. This time everything was different. The Bovshiv sugar producers only turned to the sanitary epidemiologic service after 18 years.

The situation is extraordinary. It is difficult to overestimate the danger that we are exposed to. Who and for what purpose took the lead containers with the deadly radioactive cesium? It is worth recalling that a cesium ampule radiates about 200 Roentgen an hour, the diameter of the instrument is 25 centimeters, and its weight ranges between 80 and 90 kilograms.

The search continues. Participating in it are representatives of the oblast and rayon departments of internal affairs, the oblast security services, and the headquarters of civil defense.

The Kramatorsk tragedy resulted in several deaths and severe radiation injuries suffered by the tenants of the ill-starred apartment whose wall contained precisely this type of ampule....

I appeal to medical personnel. Patients with manifestations of a general radiation sickness may come to your clinics. Be on the alert.

Unfortunately, cases of lost radioisotope are not isolated. Information about lost sources of ionizing radiation comes to us from different oblasts of Ukraine. This misfortune has not bypassed us.

If some of you, dear readers, have any information on this matter, please call the Department of Internal Affairs by dialling 02.

Strategic Forces Members Take Oath

92UM0659A Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Feb 92 p 1

[Article by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent Major A. Dolinin: "Agreements Say One Thing, but Another Is Actually Done. The Rocket Forces Are Now Taking the Blow"]

[Text]**The current situation of the Strategic Rocket Forces, from the point of view of their integrated nature, appears to be more favorable than that in other services of the Armed Forces. However, despite agreements achieved with regard to the Strategic Forces, cases of claims made to these forces against the background of political battles have also surfaced. The officers and cadets of the Kharkov Rocket School were among the first to feel this...**

The story of the Kharkov Higher Military Command and Engineer School of the Rocket Forces imeni Marshal of the Soviet Union N.I. Krylov is part and parcel of the history of the Strategic Rocket Forces. I used the full name of the school deliberately since it actually reflects the entire history of the school. The school, at one time a technical, and subsequently an aviation school, switched to training officer cadres for the then nascent Strategic Rocket Forces in December 1959. The "Krylovians" got the forces started, and now many of them hold key command positions.

The scientific potential of the school is the highest in the Rocket Forces. It graduates specialists in the area of mechanics, cybernetics, ballistics, and metrology. The instruction facilities are the most modern...

Recently, more than 90 percent of the officers, almost all warrant officers and personnel in extended service, and half of the cadets of the school swore allegiance to Ukraine. This gives us food for thought. An obvious conflict appeared between the status of the Strategic Forces, of which the Strategic Rocket Forces are the foundation, and the Ukrainian oath.

Politics had little to do with the motivation of those who took the oath. Colonel A. Popov, a senior combat training officer of the Strategic Rocket Forces who recently returned from temporary duty at the school, incidentally himself a "Krylovian," shared his observations:

"Mundane problems, pure and simple, and a lack of confidence in the future prompted the people from Kharkov to take the Ukrainian oath rather than political or ethnic convictions. It is instructive that servicemen of Ukrainian nationality were not the only ones to take the oath."

Major General V. Tolubko, chief of the school, was the first to take the oath. He did not make his choice hastily. As early as at a meeting of the Officer Assemblies of the Rocket Forces, he argued for his choice thus:

"The school is in an ambiguous situation. Nobody is giving any thought to the fact that we may become hostages or pariahs in the states where we serve. The cases of the Riga OMON [Special Purposes Militia Detachment] and the Riga School are in plain view. We have become attached to Kharkov in terms of our family roots, housing, job placement, and daily routine. Virtually no one will go anywhere else no matter how events turn out. Swearing allegiance to Ukraine guarantees us social and legal protection."

Did those who took the oath have another choice? What are the reasons for this occurrence, which shook many people in the Rocket Forces?

Representatives of the central staff of the Strategic Rocket Forces, who have been on site, are of the same opinion. Officers and warrant officers of the school found legislative documents adopted by the Ukrainian parliament attractive, especially those on the social and legal protection of servicemen and their families, and on retirement benefits. In no other state of the CIS have we seen a consistent legal basis for the life and work of servicemen provided so promptly.

Many of them followed the lead of the mass media. An appeal by President L. Kravchuk to servicemen serving in Ukraine and beyond its borders was a factor. The Rocket Forces personnel could not but note the following thought of the president: "All groups of troops and forces deployed in the territory of Ukraine, **except for troops which Ukraine will include in the composition of Strategic Forces,** (emphasis mine—note by A. D.)

constitute the Armed Forces of Ukraine. By 20 January of this year, the servicemen of the Armed Forces of Ukraine must take a military oath of allegiance to the people of Ukraine." The Kharkov school, which was at that time in a legal vacuum, indeed faced an ambiguous situation. In addition, there was the procrastination of the Strategic Rocket Forces command in working out a solution, and there was financial hardship. At that time funds had not been transferred to the school for a single item of expenditure in the new academic year; material and technical supplies had stopped arriving; there had not even been a plan to admit cadets. In a word, promises by the Ukrainian side were effective.

The peculiarities of staffing the school with permanent and temporary personnel should also have been taken into account. Persons born in Ukraine and graduates of the school account for 80 percent of the faculty; half of the cadets are local.

In the opinion of the forces command, the command of the school took little care to carry out the instructions of the commander in chief of the CIS United Armed Forces and the commander of the Strategic Rocket Forces, displaying obvious haste in taking the oath.

Is it worthwhile to analyze this fact in such detail? Perhaps it is not if we count the military oath for nothing and approach the Strategic Rocket Forces in general, flippantly. However, we do understand that haste in military policy is fraught with serious consequences. In the personnel directorate of the Strategic Rocket Forces I was shown requests from dozens of officers of various nationalities indicating their desire to serve within their republics. The division of officers along ethnic lines is obvious. What can this bring about for the Rocket Forces? How can a commander allow officers around the proverbial "nuclear button" when they have sworn allegiance to different states?

The episode involving the Kharkov school gave rise to many problems. In essence, confidence in agreements is being undermined. The uniform process of training officer cadres for the Rocket Forces is being disrupted. Separating this process out from the established system—if it comes to this—will also call for much funding. All of this painfully affects the people. Even now they are perceptibly hurt by the ambiguity of the situation which has only become more acute after the taking of the oath. Cadets, especially the graduating class, are in a difficult situation. Taking the Ukrainian oath may result in complications for them as far as both the completion of their studies and prospects in the service are concerned. So, are they to take yet another oath if they are posted to another independent state?

I believe that the euphoria among experienced officers in the Kharkov school has worn off. The future of the CIS Armed Forces, including Ukraine, remains unclear to this day, to put it mildly. There is less and less doubt as to the fact that many servicemen will have to get out of uniform prematurely and not of their own volition.

As I ascertained at the main headquarters of the Strategic Rocket Forces, no penalty sanctions against those who have taken the oath are expected. However, it is legitimate that they, having taken "someone else's" oath, will not serve in the Strategic Rocket Forces deployed in other states.

...While this article was being prepared for print the episode involving the Kharkov School continued. I was informed that the taking of the oath has spread to some other missile units in Ukraine. Despite every norm and legislative act, including those of Ukraine, the Union of Officers of Ukraine is inciting missile personnel to take the oath. For example, on a recent Sunday dozens of cadets from a military technician school left their unit without official leave and swore allegiance to Ukraine on a city square with the blessing of Colonel Martirosyan and two members of the clergy, a Catholic and an Orthodox...

Gold Deposits Discovered in Dnepropetrovsk

*OW2902152992 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1259 GMT 29 Feb 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] An exploration team from Kirovograd has discovered gold deposits in the village of Kirovskiy (the Nikopol district of the Dnepropetrovsk region).

IF's [INTERFAX's] correspondent in Dnepropetrovsk has learned that Industrial gold production is planned to begin next summer.

Moldova

Further on Cossack, Police Clash in Dubossary

Two Killed, Three Wounded

LD0203200992 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1512 GMT 2 Mar 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Dubossary—In the night of March 2, two people were killed and three wounded. A Supreme Soviet deputy of the Pridnestrovye Moldovan Republic [PMR] Viktor Dyukarev told PF [POSTFACTUM] that at 10 P.M. on March 1 an automatic gun and pistol fire was opened on the Dubossary militia car, reported to PMR, the 150m from the Moldovan police station. Major Igor Sipchenko, head of the Dubossary militia station, died from head and chest wounds at 1:10 P.M. on March 2. Chief Police Inspector of the Keinar Regional Police (from the right bank of the Dnestr), Captain Dmitriy Ivanskiy was detained at the place of the accident.

PMR authorities suggested that Moldova should immediately withdraw the Moldovan Police from Dubossary. Dyukarev said that the Moldovan authorities threatened to use force. At 4.30 A.M. the police were surrounded by the Cossacks and the militia units reporting to the PMR authorities, after which the Moldovan policemen agreed to surrender their weapons. As they were doing it, a Cossack Mikhail Zubov was killed and another Cossack Vyacheslav Meshkov was heavily wounded by shots fired from the building of the Moldovan police station.

According to Dyukarev, at 4 a.m. Moldovan police units were alerted. Moldovan police are observed to concentrate on the right bank of the Dnestr.

Dnestr Leader Gives Version

LD0203225292 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1900 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Telephoned statement to Mayak Radio by Aleksandr Akimovich Karaman, vice president of the Dnestr Moldovan Republic, on 2 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] The government and Internal Affairs Department of the Dnestr Moldovan Republic considers it their duty to give the population the following information. Competent, confidential sources have reported that for several months special training of sabotage groups of the police and the security services has been underway in Moldova intended to be used against the Dnestr Moldovan Republic. Their main task is to commit acts of terrorism and sabotage against specific persons and targets of vital importance on the territory of the Dnestr Moldovan Republic. In order to discredit the law-enforcement bodies of the Dnestr Moldovan Republic, the Republican Guard and cossacks, the plan is to commit these acts of terrorism under the guise of the armed forces of the Dnestr Moldovan Republic. [passage omitted]

The latest thing that happened was this: At 2200 last night the Dubossary town militia station received a report that there was a fight going on near the sewing factory hostel in Dubossary. Two squads went out, led by Major (Sypchenko), head of the town militia station. There was no fighting going on, but on the way back, the vehicles were ambushed and came under crossfire. Major (Sypchenko) was mortally wounded, and another guardsman was wounded. The second vehicle opened fire on the attackers, who hid in the building of the town department of the Republic of Moldova police.

The same night, the police department building was blockaded by fighters of the Republican Guard and a subdivision of cossacks; the building was then seized. None of the policemen were injured in the action, and none were wounded or killed as the official authorities of the Republic of Moldova have reported. However, one cossack was killed in the action, one was seriously wounded, and another slightly wounded. The fighting went on inside the building. The captured policemen, that is, the arrested policemen, 13 of them, were in civliian clothes at the time. One of them, Captain (Ivanskiy), is from a completely different rayon police department, located hundreds of kilometers from Dubossary. He was armed with a pistol, a cartridge belt, a grenade, and a knife. This is further evidence of the fact that this action was planned in advance and aimed to discredit the bodies of official state power of the Dnester Moldovan Republic.

More on State of Emergency

LD0203182892 Moscow TASS in English 1804 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] Chisinau March 2 TASS—The parliament of the Dnester Republic has decided to impose a state of emergency in the city of Dubossary and the adjacent district, the MOLDOVA-PRESS news agency reported, quoting the parliamentary press centre.

The republic, which is inhabited mostly by Russians and Ukrainians, declared independence from Moldova and elected a president three months ago. However, the Moldovan Parliament has refused to recognise the independence of the Dnester Republic.

Republican armed units seized a local police station in Dubossary early Monday and took 32 policemen and two trainees hostage, the news agency reports.

One person was killed and one wounded in a shoot-out in Dubossary last night.

The Moldovan Interior Ministry has taken no measures to disarm illegal groups in the region to prevent new bloodshed, the news agency said.

Moldovan Prime Minister Valeriu Muravschi described the clashes in Dubossary as "a provocation aimed at dividing the republic and thwarting its drive for independence".

In a radio address Muravschi said the Moldovan Government sent an appeal to the Commonwealth states and other countries, in which it denounced the provocation and held Dnester Republic separatists responsible for the bloodshed.

The clash was the first between Dnester militants and Moldovan police since last December.

Background on Situation

LD0303115692 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] [Announcer] On the line now is Mikhayl Sokirke, our correspondent in the Republic of Moldova. Our listeners are obviously already aware that the situation in the region of Dubossary has once again become more acute. Unfortunately people have been killed and wounded there. Over to correspondent Mikhayl Sokirke:

[Sokirke] Unfortunately, the situation has indeed been aggravated once again: Once again blood is being spilled in the Republic of Moldova, once again people have been killed and wounded, which of course cannot fail to disturb public opinion. But before describing specifically what happened last night in Dubossary and how it happened, I would like to outline very briefly the political situation in Pridnestrovye as follows.

I would like to go back to 1 December last year when illegal presidential elections took place in Pridnestrovye and, as a consequence of this, parallel, illegal, structures of power were set up. That is to say in all rayons of Pridnestrovye today there are the commissariats of police—these are legal commissariats of police which are subordinate to the government and parliament of the Republic of Moldova. There are also legal soviets and illegal soviets; and on the other hand there is say the Dubossary militia, that is to say once again an illegal formation. Naturally these parallel structures always lead to some kind of definite confrontation.

If one is to talk about what happened yesterday, I have to say that the Dnestr separatists have recently stepped up their provocative actions. For example, 10 days ago the chairman of a collective farm from the Odessa Oblast was killed while passing through Dubossary. On 29 February two citizens of the republic were returning from the Ukraine through Dubossary—one of them was shot, the other was wounded. So one cannot say that last night's events were unexpected. All of it was prepared in some way, and everything was leading up to this.

Today I have invited to the studio Viktor Mitrofanovich Berlinskiy, chairman of the commission on issues concerning the fight against crime of the parliament of Moldova, to comment and describe in greater detail what happened last night in Dubossary. Please go ahead and tell our listeners, Viktor Mitrofanovich:

[Berlinskiy] Once again blood has indeed been spilled in Moldova, once again in Dubossary, once again at a time when Mircea Snegur, the president of Moldova, is out of republic, who as you know is attending the UN session where the matter of accepting the sovereign and independent Moldova into membership of the United Nations is being decided.

Yesterday evening, 1 March, at approximately (?2219), the duty unit of the Dubossary rayon police department was approached by a young man and a woman who said that fighting had broken out near the garment works hostel, where a dance and a party were being organized, between civilians and guardsmen armed with machine guns—members of the illegal Pridnestrovye republican guard. When the police detachment approached the place where the incident was taking place, literally as they were driving up, they noticed and heard an exchange of fire breaking out between the sides taking part in the conflict, and between the militia, which had also driven up to the spot, and the guardsmen.

[Sokirke] By militia you mean the Pridnestrovye militia?

[Berlinskiy] Yes, the Pridnestrovye militia. During the exchange of fire, which the police did not take part in, we are assured by (Kolesnik), the deputy police commissar, Stipchenko, the head of the local division of the militia—the illegal body—was fatally wounded. He died in the hospital from head injuries. Then, upon the initiative of (Fenagin), chairman of the town executive committee, all the civilians were brought up.

There were calls to the population to blockade the police station and demands for the police to clear out from the building immediately onto the right bank. A large number of people were gathered together, the guardsmen came to their assistance, cossacks also came to their assistance, Don and Volga cossacks and various others, other formations—incidentally, the cossacks for some reason or other evidently came to Moldova because they smelled blood—and they began to demand the removal of the police from there.

During the assault on the police building one of the cossacks was fatally wounded and a second one was wounded. The first one also died in the hospital and the second was taken to the hospital in a serious condition. After that there was an assault on the police building. All 20 police staff were arrested illegally; they were disarmed and they have now been brought to Tiraspol where they are being held illegally in custody and questioned by the illegal bodies of the internal affairs directorate of Pridnestrovye.

[Sokirke] So those are the kind of events that are taking place. You know, esteemed colleagues and esteemed listeners, I met Valeriu Muravschi, prime minister of Moldova, just two hours ago and I want to quote to you what he literally said to me about these events:

The government of the Republic of Moldova regards the actions of the separatists first and foremost as a striving to hamper the process of acquisition of our independence. Second, today is 2 March, and a sitting of the UN General Assembly has been scheduled at which the Republic of Moldova is being admitted as a member of the United Nations. I therefore state with absolute responsibility that this provocation yesterday was aimed at preventing the admission of our republic into the United Nations.

[Berlinskiy] If I may, I would like to add that today the separatist forces are trying to establish a frontier literally along the Dnestr. They are trying to seize the town of Bendery. They have placed armed posts—guards' posts—on the approaches to Bendery which is on the right bank of the Dnestr and clearly the situation is going to become more complicated toward the evening. An assault on the police building in the town of Bendery or Tigina [pre-1940 name of Bendery] is possible.

[Announcer] Thank you for that detailed report. I would like to say that we have received a report from the Pridnestrovye press center. It says that a specially trained sabotage group of Moldova's police and security service is operating on the territory of Pridnestrovye and is carrying out acts of terrorism in order to create panic. There were casualties during clashes in Dubossary. At the present time the situation in Dubossary is fully under the control of the republican guard and the Dubossary rayon police. A decree by Smirnov, president of the Dnestr-Moldovan Republic, has introduced a state of emergency from today in Dubossary and the adjacent region.

Cossacks Accuse Secret Service of Subversion

LD0203150392 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1300 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Excerpts] We have already reported that the situation in Dubossary has become more heated. [passage omitted]

The Cossacks' Union has accused the Moldovan secret services of subversive actions against the population of the Dnestr region. As was reported to an ITAR-TASS correspondent by telephone from the press service of the Cossacks' Union, citing (Vladimir Relikov), chairman of the Committee for Defense and Security in the Dnestr Republic, which is not recognized by the leadership of Moldova, a group of saboteurs disguised in the uniforms of militia and Cossacks are making armed attacks on pickets guarding bridges as well as on officials and civilians. According to the press service of the Cossacks' Union, these actions are being carried out within the framework of a Trojan Horse operation.

Minister on Cossacks Presence in Dnestr

OW2802000692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1900 GMT 27 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The presence of Cossacks on Moldovan territory constitutes interference in the affairs of an independent state, the Minister of National Security of Moldova Anatoliy Plugaru said. Dlugaru said that the Cossacks represent a great threat not only to the citizens of Moldova but to all peripheral republics of the former USSR.

Cossacks from many regions of the former USSR are currently in Moldova. For the majority of them this "business trip" gives them the opportunity to earn some money, the minister said. Among them there are some who are wanted by the law enforcement bodies of Russia. All the Cossacks are armed with whips, sabres, and some even have automatic pistols. He said that he understands the "concern for blood brothers" but such questions are for intergovernmental agreements to decide. The Ministry of National Security plans to begin verifying registrations and some Cossacks will be turned over to the authorities searching for them.

"Citizens of Dnestr Region must realize that the presence of the Cossacks is a threat as they do as they wish and are not concerned with the rights of the citizens of the republic," Anatolie Dlugaru said.

Border Crossing Closed With Romania

LD0203022992 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2202 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau, 2 Mar (TASS)—The authorities of Moldova and Romania have decided from today to close the border crossing point at Dzurdzurlesht for a month. As Konstantin Oborok, vice president of Moldova, told the ITAR-TASS correspondent the recently opened crossing point has not been properly equipped and as a result is not coping with the increased flow of tourists.

Residents Near Romania Protest Food Exports

LD0203135292 Moscow TASS in English 1230 GMT 2 Mar 92

By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Znamenski]

[Text] Moscow March 2 TASS—All roads leading to the Jurjuleshti border checkpoint on Moldova's border with Romania were blocked today by residents of bordering Moldovan areas.

According to a report received from the state border security committee, this decision was taken on February 29 at a meeting attended by about 90 thousand men. They demanded that individuals and all means of transport stop crossing this sector of the border, so as to limit exports of food products and essential goods from Moldova to Romania.

Strategy Proposed for Union With Romania

AU2802153992 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1350 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 28/2/1992—In an interview for the SOTI private television station, Bucharest, Moldova's ex-Premier Mircea Druc proposed a strategy "to build the union" by "the immediate conclusion of a treaty between Romania and Moldova instating a common economic zone" which, "as a natural consequence, would generate a common social life" and stipulating "mutual assistance in case of threat against Romania or Moldova."

"Romanians," said the former Moldovan prime minister, "must show the world that the reintegration of Romania is no whim, but the natural course of history. If there is a wish for stability at the gates of the Balkans, at the Black Sea and the Danube, this can be achieved only through the reintegration of the Romanian territories into the motherland."

Referring to the possibility that Moldovan citizens should take part in the forthcoming legislative elections in Romania, Mircea Druc proposed that Romania's Parliament send the electoral law to Bessarabia for Bessarabians to know what to do.

Social Democrats Opposed

LD2902122692 Moscow TASS in English 1043 GMT 29 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Fedor Angeliy]

[Text] Kishinev February 29 TASS—Moldova's reunification with Romania is unsubstantiated either by considerations of economic advisability or from the viewpoint of the psychological preparedness of the population, Aleksandr Koshelev, co-chairman of the Coordinating Council of the Social-Democratic Party of Moldova, writes today in the newspaper NEZAVISIMAYA MOLDOVA.

The Social Democrats, Koshelev points out, come out in favour of the independence of the republic with open borders both in the west and east.

Romanian Agrarian Party Aids in Land Reform

OW2802210992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1815 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Moldovan Premier Valeriu Muravschi met Thursday [27 February] with a delegation of the Romanian Agrarian Democratic Party [RADP]. The meeting focused on integration of the agrarian sectors of the two countries.

Head of the Romanian delegation, Chairman of the RADP Viktor Surdu said during the meeting that his party will use all its influence to help Moldova carry out agrarian reform and include the republic's agricultural problems in the sphere of interests of the Romanian government.

The two sides agreed to help the RADP in supplying Moldovan agricultural workers with fuel for the upcoming spring field-work.

Ministry Promises Social Security to Soldiers

OW2702173192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1351 GMT 27 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Moldovan Defense Ministry has issued an address to army officers serving on the republic's territory in which it says that every officer has a right to serve either in the Moldovan armed forces or in those of any other commonwealth state, and promises legal protection and social security to those who will be serving on Moldovan territory and to their families.

The Defense Ministry also promises to keep for servicemen enrolled in the Moldovan forces their length of service, and their present posts and ranks.

The document also says that soldiers from other republics of the former USSR doing their national service in Moldova will be sent to the places where they were called up.

Ministry Takes Over Southwest Forces Building

LD0203040492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russia 1545 GMT 1 Mar 92

[From the "Novosti" newcast]

[Text] On 2 March the Moldovan Defense Ministry will have a house warming—its location is to be the headquarters of the southwest sector forces, under a decree by the republic's president.

For a certain period of time, the command of the forces and the national ministry will exist on the same territory, but even yesterday Moldovan guards were posted at the headquarters' checkpoints and around its fence.

Tajikistan

President, French Official Meet To Discuss Ties

OW0203131392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1021 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] France's State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Alain Vivien, arrives in Dushanbe on Monday [2 March] to meet with President Rakhman Nabiyev on Tuesday morning to discuss the establishment of diplomatic relations between France and Tajikistan, IF's [INTERFAX] correspondent was told at the Tajik Foreign Ministry.

The French guest is also expected to meet with leaders of the political opposition—the Democratic and Islamic parties and the popular movement RASTOKHEZ. French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas will pay an official visit to Tajikistan in the near future—tentatively, on March 4 or 5.

France Urges Nonproliferation Treaty

OW0303122192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1049 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] France is interested in Tajikistan joining the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. The statement was made at a Tuesday [3 March] meeting in Dushanbe with President Rakhman Nabiyev by [French] secretary of state Alain Vivien. According to the French official, this should be done because there is a uranium processing plant in the territory of the republic which is formally considered a non-nuclear state. He also promised his country's support for the construction of an aluminium plant in Tajikistan. On Tuesday he plans to meet the leadership of the political opposition.

Turkish Delegation Received by President

LD0103141792 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1217 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] Dushanbe, 1 March (ITAR-TASS)—According to Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin, one of the main aims of the Turkish govermental delegation, which has arrived in Dushanbe today, is to establish fraternal relations with Tajikistan and to develop cooperation between the two countries in economics and culture.

The Turkish delegation was received by President of Tajikistan Rakhman Nabiyev on the same day.

Turkish Officials Comment

TA0103202692 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1800 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Aydogan Kilic report from Dushanbe]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin, National Education Minister Koksal Toptan, and State Minister Serif Ercan were received by Tajik President Rakhman Nabiyev in Dushanbe. Later, official talks were held between the delegations. Cetin made the following statement to the TRT [Turkish Radio and Television] on the meeting:

[Begin Cetin recording] Tajikistan has decided to put into effect, as soon as possible, all the institutions and rules and regulations of independence. While doing those things, they want to cooperate very closely with Turkey. They have said that Turkey is very important to them and that it is a very important model. We have reached an agreement to cooperate in foreign affairs. They have told us they will be sending personnel to Turkey to be trained in our foreign ministry. A decision has been reached to sign a general agreement on education, science, and culture.

We believe that two fields are very significant: communications and transportation. We are determined to make the necessary efforts to increase our relations in those two fields, not only with Tajikistan, but with all the other republics. [end recording]

Turkey and Tajikistan also discussed education.

[Begin Toptan recording] At the meeting today with the Tajik education minister we told him we can extend scholarships for high school and university studies. The duration and fields of those scholarships will be decided on later. Furthermore, he requested our help in the field of education and books. In the field of education, they mainly want equipment. He will be visiting Turkey, and we will then discuss the details of this aid. [end recording]

Nabiyev To Visit Iran Before 4 Mar

LD2802111592 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1916 GMT 27 Feb 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Dushanbe [dateline as received]—Tajikistan's president Rakhman Nabiyev will visit Iran before March 4 to attend the opening of Tajikistan's embassy in Tehran and to sign an economic cooperation agreement. Sources say that government circles are pinning great hopes on this visit, because the Iranian side, in addition to humanitarian aid, has also promised to extend interest-free credits, meet Tajikistan's fuel and consumer goods requirements and make investments in the republic's economy. Over the last two weeks, apart from the Tajikistan government's delegation headed by Foreign Minister Lakim Kayumov, another two groups have visited Iran, including the head of the republic's Moslems Khodji Akbar Turadjonzoda, Dushanbe City Executive Council Chairman Maksud Ikramov, representatives of the clergy and of the Tajikistan Islamic Revival Party, journalists and people prominent in culture.

President Issues Edict on Promoting Enterprise

LD0103232492 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1603 GMT 1 Mar 92

[From the "Domestic Market" Section]

[Text] According to Tajikistan's business community, President Rakhman Nabiyev is beginning to realize the need to encourage the spirit of enterprise. That was the comment on President Nabiyev's recent edict, entitled on steps to promote enterprise and leasing relations, which PF [POSTFACTUM] received at the republic's Lease-Holders' Union on February 28. The local mass media carried the edict on February 26. Tajik entrepreneurs believe the document aims to improve the Tajik economy, to quickly saturate the local market with essentials and consumer goods, to promote leasing relations and revive the traditional Tajik dehkan farms, as well as to make entrepreneur work more attractive for Tajik citizens.

In line with the edict, the President of Tajikistan makes it binding for power structures at all levels to take corresponding steps in order to encourage enterprise, as well as the cooperative movement, and leasing relations of all kinds. The local authorities are to monitor compliance with the laws, which aim to promote all business activity, geared towards saturating the market with foods and consumer goods. Also in line with the president's edict the Government of Tajikistan is assigned the task of transforming in 1992 the lands in all regions and used by all farms into lands, used on internal economic, collective, family, or individual leasing terms.

President Nabiyev also believes it is necessary to adopt a number of economic measures to put an end to a situation when most of the republic's agro-industrial enterprises are loss-makers, up to privatizing them altogether or transforming them into traditional dehkan or more European-style farms.

The president's edict also suggests creating in 1992 new market structures and new forms of supplying material and technical resources to the republic's agro-industrial sector, in particular, setting up commodity exchanges, trading houses, joint-stock commercial and information centers, brokerage firms, as well as joint-stock companies to supply goods and raw materials. Besides, the edict proposes to set up private or state-run trading chains, which would sell the required material and technical resources to dehkan and other farmers and to leaseholders.

Apart from these measures, a consultative body will be set up under the Cabinet of Ministers to deal with different aspects of promoting entrepreneur work and leasing relations. Presumably, this body will include representatives of the republic's business community. At the same time members of Tajikistan's Lease-Holders' Union also expressed the opinion that Rakhman Nabiyev, despite the evolutionary character of his latest edict, simply cannot free himself of the administrative and command method of imposing the new trend in the republic.

Amendment Prepared on Islamic Party Exclusion

LD2902132492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Text] The government and the leadership of the Tajik Supreme Soviet are preparing an amendment to the republic's constitution excluding the possibility of the establishment of an Islamic theocracy in the republic by parliamentary means. This has been learned by a Dushanbe correspondent of POSTFACTUM News Agency from circles close to the apparatus of Tajik President Rakhman Nabiyev.

The amendment is being drawn up under conditions of secrecy. However, it is learned that Supreme Soviet Chairman Safarali Kendzhayev has made some objections to the amendment being proposed.

The possible change to Tajikistan's constitution is aimed at the Islamic Party of Rebirth, which was legalized last year and which has been considerably increasing its influence, especially in the south of Tajikistan.

Democratic Party Calls For National Unity

OW2802211792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1815 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Members of the presidium of the Taijik Democratic Party [DPT] called on President Rakhman Nabiyev to "get in touch with" the opposition leaders to create a government of national unity. They also appealed to all opposition parties to enter into a dialogue and mark a course of cooperation with the legal president to surmount the severe crisis in the Republic.

The address also said that supporting the President in "his good beginning" doesn't mean that the DPT will support decisions "which contradict the interests of the people and the principles of democracy".

Members of the presidium of the DPT also criticized the recent interview of party chairman Shodmon Yusupov on "Voice of America" in which President Nabiyev was called "a representative of the communist totalitarian regime". Therefore Yusupov called on the US and other democratic countries not to establish diplomatic or any other ties with Tajikistan.

Turkmenistan

Government Halts Ukraine Gas Shipments

OW0303122392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1049 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Askhabad knows nothing of the reaction of Ukraine to the termination of shipments of Turkmen national gas. The statement was made by a member of the presidential council, deputy Prime Minister Nazar Suyunov in an interview with IF [INTERFAX]. It is possible that Ukraine has gas stores enough to last several days, he thought.

In 1992 in exchange for gas Ukraine planned to supply Turkmenistan with the output of its engineering and chemical industry, rolled metal, pipes, construction materials and food. According to Mr. Suyunov, these shipments amount to just 1% of his republic's, while Turkmenistan supplied Ukraine with 25% of its gas.

Turkmenistan stopped gas supplies after Ukraine demanded that the price of 800 roubles for one thousand cubic meters agreed upon a week earlier include the transportation cost. Such expenditures, according to the Turkmen official, amount to 770 roubles and more, which would mean that Turkmenistan would be forced to sell its gas at a ridiculous price, actually to its own detriment.

According to Turkmen experts, the price of Turkmen gas should be 3,945 roubles for one thousand cubic meters. The average world price is $85.

Quoting sources in the Russian Government Mr. Suyunov said that Russia is going to sell Ukraine gas for 2,360 roubles. The Turkmen price will not be lower, he said.

If Ukraine disagrees, Turkmenistan will be able to profit by selling gas to other CIS countries and even further. Requests for greater gas shipments have come from Kazakhstan and Transcaucasian republics.

Suyunov Comments on Decision

LD0203193492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1500 GMT 2 Mar 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The supply of Turkmen gas to Ukraine ceased on 1 March. An accord on the supply of it was reached in February and Ukraine promised to supply products worth 800 rubles [R] per thousand cubic meters of gas. However, the Ukrainian side later decided that the cost for the transportation of gas should be included in this R800. Subsequently, the Turkmen Government annulled the accord. Nazar Suyunov, the deputy prime minister of Turkmenistan, comments on the situation.

[Suyunov] It has turned out that Ukraine is ready to buy gas at R30 for 1,000 cubic meters. This is completely... well... it does not fit within any framework. For this reason, we have of course refused to reckon up in this way.

[Unidentified correspondent] Tell me, will the cessation of gas supplies to Ukraine affect the state of this branch of industry in any way?

[Suyunov] Well, it will not affect the state of this branch of industry in Turkmenistan at all. It will not affect it at all. And as far as Ukraine is concerned, I should note that the amount of Turkmen gas supplied to Ukraine represents 25 percent of all of the gas used by Ukraine.

Shortages Made Up in CIS Trade

LD0203193992 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1600 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] A sitting of the presidential council was held in Ashkhabad today. It has been reported that the economic potential of the republic will allow to fully compensate losses sustained by the suspension of sales of gas to Ukraine in the shortest possible time. Shortages in deliveries of goods will be made up by purchases from abroad and the CIS thanks to countertrading with cotton and mineral raw materials and also the use of the foreign credits on hand.

The presidential council approved Russia's proposal to conclude a bilateral treaty on friendly relations and cooperation and also to establish diplomatic relations.

Armenia

CIS Troop Withdrawal 'Precipitate Step'

LD0203210892 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Correspondent V. Nazaryan report; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpts] Today the 366th Motorized Rifle Regiment started an organized withdrawal from Stepanakert. [passage omitted]

[Nazaryan] Injured people again are being brought to Yerevan from Stepanakert, where some hours ago the withdrawal of the 366th Motorized Rifle Regiment began in accordance with instructions from the commander in chief of CIS troops.

[Begin recording] [Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan] I regard the withdrawal of that regiment from Nagorno-Karabakh as a precipitate step if it is not followed by other logical steps, that is, a restoration of the balance that has been upset in the region. I have in mind the strategic dumps near Agdam which still are retained by Azeri guerrillas. If the withdrawal of the regiment is followed by rendering that dump harmless and by returning the dump to the former Soviet Army, I will believe that everything is in order.

[S.U. Beppayev, deputy commander of the Transcaucasian Military District] True, the regiment did not take part and is not taking part in combat operations, but since there is such suspicion it seems it is to someone's advantage; it is to the advantage of those forces that wish to aggravate the situation even further. [end recording]

President's Nagorno-Karabakh Plan Detailed

MK0303113892 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Mar 92 p 3

[Liana Minasyan report under the general heading "Airborne Troops Brought Into Nagorno-Karabakh": "Armenia"]

[Text] Zhirayr Liparityan, the Armenian president's political adviser, has submitted Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan's initiative for resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. He said that the government asserts unequivocally that the problem of Nagorno-Karabakh is a political rather than an ethnic or religious problem. We regard it as Azerbaijan's internal affair. Since a conflict has arisen between Azerbaijan and the Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh, this means that any decision on Nagorno-Karabakh must be adopted by the Azerbaijan leadership and the elected leaders of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic. Armenia does not have any territorial claims on Azerbaijan and takes into consideration the fact that although Nagorno-Karabakh is historically Armenian territory and is populated by Armenians, the present reality is that it is part of Azerbaijan. Desiring to resolve the conflict, Armenia may reach some mutually acceptable compromise with Azerbaijan, but the compromise must satisfy the population of Nagorno-Karabakh.

The Armenian Government will resolutely support all steps leading to a peaceful settlement of the conflict. At the same time it cannot impose any decisions on the people of Nagorno-Karabakh and is only willing to adopt a decision that is acceptable to this people. While it considers the conflict to be Azerbaijan's internal affair, Armenia cannot remain indifferent to the fate of the Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh. This means that it is categorically unacceptable to Armenia for the political conflict to be settled at the cost of the extermination of the Armenians as a community and it cannot allow another part of the Armenian people to fall victim to genocide and deportations.

We hope, the president's adviser said, that the international community will force Azerbaijan to observe the pledges it made on entering the CIS and the CSCE. Any artificial neutrality must not mean that states can treat with indifference the violation of international laws and principles adopted by the world community. The conflict has reached a critical point and if Azerbaijan is not restricted in its intentions to resolve the conflict by military means, not balking at using all its available weapons against the civilian population of Nagorno-Karabakh, this may bring inevitable war. The consequences of that turn of events must be obvious to the states of the region.

President Ter-Petrosyan suggested that the leaders of states and international organizations urge Azerbaijan to show restraint, sharply condemn the formation of an army there, and warn against actions that might disrupt the balance of forces. They must do everything they can to ensure that Azerbaijan cannot use the Russian and CIS arms on its territory. During the second phase the CIS, the CSCE, and the United Nations could ensure the operation of peace- keeping missions in the conflict zone.

The Armenian Government hopes that Turkey will observe neutrality. It has received explanations regarding certain statements by Prime Minister Demirel that boil down to the idea that Turkey will not play an inflammatory role in Azerbaijan's strongarm policy.

Ter-Petrosyan's initiative presupposes the following cease-fire mechanism: The Armenian Government uses its influence over the Nagorno-Karabakh authorities to persuade them to unilaterally suspend self-defense detachments' military operations for 24 hours from the time that the Azerbaijani Government makes a formal pledge to cease fire in the region at the same time. Following the cease-fire observers from international organizations should come to Nagorno-Karabakh. As soon as this agreement is reached the negotiating process between the Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan governments to find a long-term settlement to this problem can be started. Armenia is willing to help the sides formulate a mutually acceptable solution, but hopes that the talks will be held under the auspices of international organizations.

We already have experience, Zhirayr Liparityan said, of Azerbaijan declaring a cease-fire, but for various reasons the agreement was not observed. The following question arises: Do the troops come under the jurisdiction of the Azerbaijan Government? Armenia still has no intention of forming a national army and the appeal to Armenian officers serving on CIS territory to return to the republic concerns the formation of an Armenian national guard. Our policy is founded on the premise that there should be international guarantees of Armenia's security and all conflicts must be resolved peacefully. At the latest meeting of heads of state in Minsk, Ter-Petrosyan asked the CIS heads of state to refrain for two or three years from forming their own armies. But this appeal, too, had no effect. Despite the fact that the Soviet Army took an active part in deporting the Armenian population in May, the presence of CIS troops is playing a certain restraining role today. CIS troops were withdrawn from the conflict zone and this promoted the escalation of the conflict. Our president and government have asked Yeltsin and the command of the CIS troops to leave some subunits in Stepanakert. We have no information to indicate that these troops are taking part in hostilities on the self-defense detachments' side, but they have taken retaliatory steps in response to attacks on the regiment. The Armenian Government in Armenia is coming under strong pressure in connection with the numerous Armenian deaths in Nagorno-Karabakh and its ability to to control this pressure is not unlimited.

President Receives Visiting German Delegation

NC0203204992 Yerevan Radio Yerevan Network in Armenian 1730 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] Gagik Arutyunyan, Armenian vice president, received a delegation from the German Bundestag's Social Democratic Party [SDP] wing today. The delegation is lead by Hans Vogel, vice president of Socialist International.

The SDP delegation is on a fact-finding tour to CIS countries to get acquainted with the process of the formation of the new political and economic structures. They have already visited Kiev, Minsk, Kishinev, and Moscow. Following its visit here, the delegation will visit Tbilisi and Baku, said the leader of the delegation, adding: We would like to hear your assessment of the situation, and about your proposals and approaches for solving the problems.

Vogel indicated that the delegation will present its observations and impression of the tour to the Bundestag on 14 March and in so doing would help to formulate a full picture about the political and economic situation in Armenia on the basis of which it would be possible to build future productive relations.

Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan received Vogel today. After underlying the importance Armenia feels in establishing comprehensive and mutually advantageous ties with Germany, Ter-Petrosyan discussed the political process in the aftermath of the collapse of the former Soviet Union and provided detailed information on the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh and on the possibilities of a peaceful resolution of the problem.

The president regretfully noted that the integration processes are still taking place in the former Soviet Union despite the fact that a commonwealth of states has been formed and scores of documents have been signed to regulate relations within the CIS. The fact is that mechanisms to put these agreements into effect and a system of relevant sanctions against certain states have not yet been created, he noted.

The president emphasized that ethnic relations are another matter of concern regarding the peaceful coexistence of the peoples and the fate of the CIS. History has amply shown that border disputes arise during the collapse of colonialist empires. In particular, in our case when the borders were drawn up arbitrarily without consideration to ethnic composition and other specifics. The Nagorno-Karabakh problem is the most obvious, but by no means the only, example of this.

In representing Armenia's foreign policy principles [words indistinct], Ter-Petrosyan enumerated in detail possible solutions to the Nagorno-Karabakh problem through political means, and Armenian's political initiatives in this direction which aim to bring about comprehensive negotiations following a cease-fire agreement between the Azerbaijani authorities and the newly elected leadership of Nagorno-Karabakh. He said that in the end international observers will be needed to settle the problem.

In thanking the president for the reception accorded him and exhaustive and clear-cut information, Vogel agreed with the assessment on the political processes and with the practical proposals to solve the Nagorno-Karabakh problem. He assured Ter-Petrosyan that Germany is ready to increase its multilateral assistance to the republics, including Armenia, and will spare no effort to help in securing a cease-fire to prevent further bloodshed in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Other matters were also discussed.

President Plans Multiparty Consultative Body

LD0203142192 Moscow TASS in English 1351 GMT 2 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan March 2 Tass—Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan has decided to set up a consultative committee which will include representatives of all political parties in the republic.

The announcement was made at a session of the Armenian Council of National Security on Sunday [1 March], which approved the decision.

Analysts say the committee will help consolidate political forces in Armenia.

Azerbaijan

Armenians 'Concerned' at Regiment's Withdrawal

LD0203190292 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1736 GMT 2 Mar 92

[by ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 2 March (TASS)—The 366th Motorized Rifle Regiment began to withdraw today in an organized manner from the town of Stepanakert in Nagorno-Karabakh, which is in the grip of civil war. As Albert Kochetkov, the ITAR-TASS correspondent, has been told in the Headquarters of the Transcaucasus Military District, columns of combat equipment with servicemen are being withdrawn together with all types of covering forces and logistic support. The Nagorno-Karabakh warring sides are not impeding their passage. Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, ordered on Friday [28 February] that the regiment be withdrawn from the conflict zone.

The TASS correspondent was informed at the Directorate of the Internal Affairs of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic that last night an airborne assault troops battalion landed near the village of Balludzha in Askeranskiy rayon, where one of the battalions of the 366th Motorized Rifle Regiment is deployed. It was withdrawn from Stepanakert after attacks on the town and the base from Grad systems. It seems that the airborne assault troops will have to cover the withdrawal of this regiment.

The press center of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Supreme Soviet announced that this morning talks were held between the kray administration and Lieutenant General Yuriy Grekov, deputy commander of the Transcaucasus Military District, who is in Stepanakert at present. Questions related to the withdrawal of the regiment and the prevention of conflict situations were discussed. As is known, the Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh is concerned by the withdrawal of the last unit of the CIS armed forces from Stepanakert and is worried that this will be followed by more decisive actions by the Azerbaijani army.

Regiment Warns 'Dramatic Steps'

OW0203195792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1912 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] There have been conflicting reports of a possible withdrawal of the 366 motorized rifle regiment of the former Soviet Army stationed in Stepanakert. The CIS Commander-in-Chief Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov's order to withdraw the regiment followed missile and artillery attacks by Azeris.

The Commander-in-Chief's office says the regiment is going to be withdrawn to Gyandzha, Azerbaijan.

The Information Department Chief of the Transcaucasian military district Vasily Belchenko is quoted as saying, however, that the regiment will be withdrawn to Georgia for re-organization.

The Azeri Security Ministry is sure that the regiment will leave Stepanakert through Shusha and the Armenian town Lachin.

CIS troops are reported to have arrived to the area of Stepanakert by helicopter to provide security for the 366 regiment during its withdrawal from Nagorno-Karabakh.

The news center "Lur" reports that the Transcaucasian military district's Deputy Commander Yuriy Grekov has arrived in Stepanakert. Lieutenant-General Grekov has had talks with the leadership of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic. No details have been disclosed yet.

The news agency SNARK quotes another Deputy Commander of the Transcaucasian military district Lieutenant-General Sufiyan Bellayev as saying that the 366 motorized rifle regiment will begin to be withdrawn from Stepanakert at 16:00 on March 2. The pull-out will be completed within 24 hours. "If anyone tries to frustrate the withdrawal, the army will take dramatic steps", Lietenant-General Bellayev warned.

Armenians Block Regiment

PM0203215592 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 3 Mar 92 p 1

[A. Khokhlov report: "366th Regiment Has Left Stepanakert. But It Has Not Gotten Far"]

[Text] Carrying out the orders of the CIS Joint Armed Forces High Command, the 366th Motorized Rifle Regiment and other garrison units yesterday left their military camps at Stepanakert-Khankendy. But the 366th Motorized Rifle Regiment did not reach Gyandzha, which is to be the end point of the march and where the staff of the 23d Motorized Rifle Division is located. It was blocked by the Armenian population 3-4 km from its former location.

R. Bykov, staffer of the Joint Armed Forces High Command Press Center, has denied a report by news agencies of troops advancing into Nagorno-Karabakh from Azerbaijan to assist the 366th Regiment. The regiment will carry out the order relying only on its own resources. The motorized rifle regiment's fire power enables it to clear the way with the help of weapons, but the military will not use them against the peaceful population—the column is blockaded mainly by women and children. Representatives of the CIS Joint Armed Forces High Command and the Transcaucasus Military District Command are holding talks with the Armenian side.

The units pulling out of Stepanakert probably will not be greeted with open arms in Gyandzha either: Here servicemen of the 366th Motorized Rifle Regiment are called accomplices of the Armenians in shelling Shusha and seizing Khodzhaly. The families of the regiment's officers have already been sent from Gyandzha to Russia on board military transport aircraft.

Some 70 tonnes of military freight has also been brought out of Gyandzha onto Russian territory. In this connection the Azerbaijani Ministry of Defense has demanded the handover to Azerbaijan of the property of the 295th Motorized Rifle Division stationed in Baku. It was from the arsenals of this division that a BM-21 "Grad" mount was taken on 28 January. The command of the 295th Motorized Rifle Division has rejected the Azerbaijani side's demand. The military's talks with the Azerbaijani leadership are proceeding with difficulty.

Soldier Killed During Withdrawal

OW0303120092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1049 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the press center of the supreme commander of the CIS Armed Forces, Sergeant A. Ruder was killed during the withdrawal of the only remaining motorized infantry regiment from Nagorno-Karabakh. He died when his battalion came under fire last night. It is not clear which side—the Armenian or Azeri—opened the fire.

The movement of the regiment has been stopped and it is "taking positions in reserved areas".

According to the press center, the garrison in Stepanakert is occupied by Armenian armed formations and town residents.

According to some reports, the first deputy commander of the land force of the CIS Colonel-General Boris Gromov has arrived in the area.

Deputy commander of the Transcaucasian military district, Sufiyan Beppayev, told a Monday news conference in Yerevan, that the regiment will be transferred to a training center in Georgia where it will be reformed.

Meanwhile, last night the Azeri town of Shusha in Nagorno-Karabakh and the town of Agdam bordering on Nagorno-Karabakh again came under rocket and artillery fire. According to local militia departments, two persons were wounded in Shusha and in Agdam one was killed and five wounded.

Sources in Azerbaijan also report the shellings of settlements in areas bordering on Armenia. No victims are reported.

Yerevan Reports Battles, Azerbaijani Advances

NC0203175392 Yerevan Radio Yerevan Network in Armenian 1500 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] Alarming news continues to come from Stepanakert. There is no end to the atrocities committed and attacks launched by the Azerbaijani armed formations against the Armenian settlements in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Azerbaijani Army units are regrouping and are trying to offset the defeat they suffered at the hands of the Armenian self-defense forces in the final days of February by launching new large-scale military operations.

The Nagorno-Karabakh Supreme Soviet Press Center reports that a large number of Azerbaijani military equipment and artillery pieces have been arriving near the city of Martuni, which came under massive shelling from 100-mm cannons and armored cars early on 2 March.

The Armenian village of Karin-Tak has been hit with artillery fire for the last two days from the direction of Shusha. Armenian self-defense detachments opened return fire on Shusha. Details of the combat operations are being ascertained.

In the last few days, armed Azerbaijani formations have invaded Mardakertskiy Rayon from the direction of Mir-Bashirskiy and Agdamskiy Rayons in an attempt to occupy the bordering Armenian villages of (Khurtulan), (Yarimcha) and Karmiravan. Due to strong resistance and counter-strikes by the Armenian freedom fighters, however, these efforts failed. The bandits suffered enormous losses and retreated to their former positions. [words indistinct] during the latest attacks, armed Azerbaijani formations have managed to enter (Khurtulan) and (Yarimcha). Reports indicate that they set the villages on fire. Not all the peaceful residents of those villages managed to abandon their homes on time. Reports from Stepanakert indicate that there are dead and injured among the residents. It is not possible at this time to ascertain casualty figures because the villages are still under Azerbaijani control.

International Groups Asked To Send Observers

OW0203215592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1912 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Azeri president's spokesman for Nagorno-Karabakh has called on the leaders of the member-countries of the United Nations, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the European Parliament and the CIS to send their observers to Nagorno-Karabakh. The Azeri President's spokesman says that the "republic of Azerbaijan has found itself face to face with glaring injustice, open falsehoods and farce by the Russian television, the Moscow lobby and the Armenian diaspora". "At a time when there has been no day without Azeri villages being burnt down in Nagorno-Karabakh, at a time when the dead bodies of thousands of Azeri women, children and elderly people have covered the woods and mountains, at a time when the moans and sobs caused by sophisticated torture by Lebanese, Syrian and other mercenaries are filling the air in Nagorno-Karabakh's canyons and valleys, farcical lies about the misfortunes of innocent Armenians are being put on the air, lies bought with the dollars of the Armenian diaspora". Musa Mamedov said that the city of Khodzhaly was burnt down on February 26 with the use of armored vehicles with cruelty comparable only to that displayed by the Nazis in Guernica and Baby Yar (the site of the mass shootings of Jews near Kiev during WWII—IF [INTERFAX].). The Azeri President's spokesman said that in Nagorno-Karabakh hired assassins were carrying out "scorched land" operations and genocide of the Azeri people.

Baltic Council Urged To Settle Confrontation

OW2902141292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1259 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The parliament of Azerbaijan has urged the Baltic Council uniting Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, to mediate in settling the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh.

IF [INTERFAX] correspondent reports from Riga that a corresponding request was handed to Chairman of the Latvian parliament Anatolijs Gorbunovs by representative of the Azeri parliament, Farkhad Geidarli.

Attempts to mediate in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict are being made at both the Commonwealth and international levels.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev invited his Armenian and Azeri colleagues to Moscow for talks. However, the negotiating parties failed to overcome differences between Baku and Yerevan.

In the middle of the week, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati visited Baku and Yerevan with a mediatory mission. He was also planning to travel to Nagorno-Karabakh, but the conflicting parties in Nagorno-Karabakh violated the temporary cease-fire and his mission failed. According to reports from Paris, special envoy of the French government Bernard Couchner will arrive in the Transcaucasian region to get acquainted with the situation.

Deputies Call For Supreme Soviet Meeting

NC0203151092 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 2000 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] A group of Azerbaijani deputies has made the following appeal:

Azerbaijani sovereignty has been threatened by the unbelievable acts of violence committed by the Armenian terrorists in Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan's border rayons, the action taken against the peaceful people, the forced evacuation of people from their hometowns, the economic problems, and the fear that supporters of the former empire feel over the strengthening of our republic's influence in the outside world. Under current circumstances, these forces, which encourage us to get bogged down in internal disputes, may create conditions helpful to the Armenian lobby and its supporters, who resort to trickery and merciless actions.

None of the decisions recently adopted by the Azerbaijan National Council has contributed toward stabilizing the republic's political or social situation. This crisis has created fears of a civil war. In addition, it poses a threat to our republic's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

All the intellectual and potential resources of the republic's Supreme Soviet must help find a way to resolve this complex situation. In light of all this, we call for an urgent Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet meeting during which all these issues will be discussed.

Armenian Action in Khodzhaly 'Act of Genocide'

NC0203162792 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 2000 GMT 28 Feb 92

["Text" of President Ayaz Mutalibov's message in connection with the destruction of Khodzhaly; read by announcer, date not given]

[Text] The city of Khodzhaly was destroyed and set on fire as a result of the violent operations carried out by Armenian mercenary groups on 26-27 February. Hundreds of city residents were tortured and killed or shot and seriously wounded. Many others have been missing after trying to break through the lines of attacking Armenians. Azerbaijan's leaders have assessed the tragic development in Khodzhaly as a criminal act and an act of genocide by Armenian separatists against the Azerbaijani people. I am deeply grieved as are my people and the relatives and friends of those who have died. May God bless the souls of the martyrs.

[Signed] Ayaz Mutalibov, president of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Official Says 1,000 Killed

NC0303160592 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 0430 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Interview with El'man Mamedov, head of the Khodzhaly City Executive Authority, by Baku radio correspondent Bekir Sharipov in Baku; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Sharipov] Mr. Mamedov, you witnessed the incidents in Khodzhaly. We wish to learn the truth from you.

[Mamedov] The tragic situation began when Khodzhaly's links with the rest of Azerbaijan were cut. Khodzhaly was besieged. Even helicopters were unable to fly there. Foodstuffs, fuel, and other essential commodities were in short supply. That is when the tragedy began. It ended with the massacre of Khodzhaly residents.

[Sharipov] Did the residents of Khodzhaly expect such a tragedy?

[Mamedov] No. That is why no one came to help us. We were just killed on the spot.

[Sharipov] When were Khodzhaly's links with the rest of Azerbaijan cut off?

[Mamedov] The Armenians fired on one of our vehicles on the morning of 1 November 1991. Three passengers were traveling in the vehicle from Askeran at the time. Two were killed and the third was wounded. Later, Armenians blocked the highway. They blocked it near the castle, which is close to Askeran. The highway to Khodzhaly was cut at that time, so we organized helicopter flights. The last helicopter flight was on 28 January the day Armenians fired on a helicopter in the Shusha region, killing about 40 people. Helicopter flights were therefore suspended. Military helicopters reached us on 13 February, but later, all flights and links with the rest of the republic were cut. We only had telephone links.

[Sharipov] Various reports have been received in connection with the casualties in Khodzhaly. As the head of the Khodzhaly City Executive Authority and a witness to what has taken place in the city, can you comment on this?

[Mamedov] I have witnessed all the incidents. Those of us who were able to carry arms tried to protect the women, children, and elderly people. We took to the fields. When we moved out of the woods, we only had to walk two or three kilometers to reach Agdam, which is between Nakhichevan and Askeran. That was when they began to kill everyone. Most of the women, children, and elderly people were killed. We have not been able to count the dead. This is because we have no information on nearly 200 families. We have not been able to find any of them. We are trying to determine the number of casualties. I believe that at least 1,000 of our people were killed and more than 300 taken hostage. More than half of them have been released. We have more than 200 wounded being treated in various hospitals.

[Sharipov] We grieve for each and every one of the fellow countrymen we have lost. Were any of your family members victims of the tragic incidents in Khodzhaly?

[Mamedov] My mother was killed. We have not been able to retrieve her remains. We also lost 22 relatives we regarded as family members. God bless the souls of the martyrs. This is a war for our land.

[Sharipov] Do you believe that we have completely lost Khodzhaly? Will it be possible to retake it?

[Mamedov] This is a war. Each and every war has its own rules. We have read in the books and heard from the elderly people that a residential area may change hands between warring sides. If our republic takes effective measures, our Defense Ministry is strengthened, and we have a strong army and effective technical equipment, it will not be difficult to retake Khodzhaly. The residents of Khodzhaly live in hope of returning to their city. [passage omitted]

'Bloody Incidents' Unless President Resigns

NC0303152292 Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish 25 Feb 92 p 19

[Report by Rehber Besiroglu from Baku: "Opposition Groups Demand Mutalibov's Resignation"]

[Text] The violent clashes between Armenian and Azerbaijani units in the Nagorno-Karabakh region continue unabated. Opposition groups in Azerbaijan have joined forces against President Mutalibov and demanded his resignation. CIS military units in the region have protested the deaths of their colleagues in Azerbaijani attacks and demanded that they be allowed to return fire.

Iran has launched an effort to broker a peace agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati yesterday leaving Tehran to mediate between the two republics.

The Azerbaijan Popular Front, the National Council, and the opposition parties blame President Mutalibov for the developments in Nagorno-Karabakh and have united their forces against him. Mutalibov walked out of parliament's assembly hall when his opponents demanded he resign. Etibar Mamedov, leader of the National Freedom Party [NFP] and member of the National Council, told MILLIYET: "The situation in Azerbaijan brings back the events of January 1990. The NFP is ready to assume power. There could be very bloody incidents in Azerbaijan if Mutalibov does not resign soon.

Georgia

Rallies, Violence Reported in Western Towns

AU0303115492 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1000 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] Batoni [Georgian polite form of address] Roman Gogia, Gagra's militia chief, informed us this morning that it has been relatively calm in the town during the last few days. Yesterday, an information rally attended by 200-300 people was held. There were no excesses of any kind. The only thing is that no bread has been baked for two days now due to the lack of flour. (?schools) have again closed. The militia is in full control of the situation.

Our correspondent informed us from Tsalenjikha that yesterday work resumed at enterprises and establishments in the rayon center. However, the situation changed in the afternoon. A number of people attending a rally destroyed the (?collective-farm) market, blew up some (?booths), and called upon enterprise workers to leave their place of work.

Batoni Soso Aleksandria, Poti's military plenipotentiary, has informed us that the question regarding fuel and electric power again remains unresolved. During the last few days, electric power (?has not been supplied) according to schedule, something that is seriously preventing work at Poti's port and bread combine. [Words indistinct] pensioners are not receiving their pensions. Rallies are again taking place. Unfortunately, the number of those in attendance is increasing.

National Guard Disperses Rally in Tbilisi

OW0203221492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1912 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] About two hundred supporters of the ousted President Gamsakhurdia tried to rally in front of the university building in Tbilisi on Monday [2 March]. The group dispersed when National Guards fired shots in air. There were no casualties.

Curfew Extended

LD0303095192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] The curfew has been extended in Tbilisi, capital of Georgia. The city commandant has said that it will be in operation between 2300 and 0500 until 1 April. Tbilisi's commandant explained this measure by saying that an unstable situation persists in the city. According to data from the commandant's office, the ANI agency has reported, two people died on the night of 1-2 March in Tbilisi as a result of exchanges of fire. Officers of the military commandant's office found 15 mines in a basement. Moreover, from 2 March it is forbidden to hold meetings and demonstrations without the authorities' permission in Sukhumi, the administrative centre of Abkhazia. This is because supporters of Zviad Gamsakhurdia, former president of Georgia, have been continually provoking disorder in Sukhumi.

'Citizen's Behavior' Rules Begin in Abkhazia

LD0203200392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 2 Mar 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Late this evening at 2300 [2000 GMT], a decision by the Abkhazian parliament on introducing a special regime of citizens' behavior on the entire territory of the autonomous republic is to come into force. It envisages a ban on holding strikes, street marches, demonstrations [demonstratsiya], and also a ban on the movement of motor transportation and citizens between 2300 and 0600. The holding of rallies is permitted only if this complies with the norms established by law, namely if they are sanctioned by the local authorities. It is also envisaged that those who fail to comply with the special behavior regime will be fined. The checking of motor transportation will be intensified on Abkhazia's roads.

'Comparatively Calm' Night

OW0303130392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1049 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to IF's [INTERFAX] correspondent in Sukhumi, the first night after the introduction of a special state in Abkhazia at 23:00 on Monday [2 March] was comparatively calm. No incidents were registered. Only two cars were detained in Sukhumi one of which was carrying people returning from a party.

The special regulations in the autonomous republic in Georgia were adopted by the Abkhaz parliament on February 26 following the growth of crime caused mainly by actions of supporters of the ousted Georgian president Zviad Gamsakhurdia.

Among other things unauthorized rallies and processions are banned. Traffic is banned between 23:00 and 6:00. Militiamen are allowed to check vehicles, drivers and passengers around the clock. Militia has been given the right to immediately deport from Abkhazia persons who are not permanent residents of the autonomous republic.

People Denied Access to Towns in South Ossetia

AU0303085292 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0300 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] The situation is again tense in Samachablo [South Ossetia].

In spite of the fact that the situation is relatively stable, the Georgian population is being denied free access to Georgian villages via Tskhinvali. It is significant that Ossetian extremists have made some concessions. They are letting children, the elderly, and women into the town but young people are again being denied entry.

As is known, there are many refugees from Samachablo in Gori. Recently, an elderly refugee from Achabeti died. His body was returned to his native village only with the help of the military.

Second Meeting With Ossetian Officials Planned

OW0203213992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1612 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Georgian Minister of Interior Affairs Roman Gventadze said that a second meeting is in the offing for representatives of the Ministries of Interior Affairs of Georgia and North Ossetia to resolve the conflict in South Ossetia. The meeting will be held in Vladikavkaz and will be attended by leaders of the South Ossetian law enforcement bodies.

The first meeting of leaders of the Georgian and North Ossetian Interior Ministries was held in the North Ossetian city of Beslan February 27.

In addition a special commission of the Advisory Council of the Cabinet of Ministers on the resolution of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict rejected the claim by Russian media "of alleged continuous attacks by Georgian soldiers" on Tskhinvali and Ossetian villages. The commission proposed setting up a news center in Tskhinvali with Georgian, Ossetian, Russian, and other journalists from the former USSR to more accurately report the information on events in South Ossetia.

Amnesty Decree Meets With 'Mixed' Reaction

OW2902183292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1554 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] An amnesty decree issued by the Military Council was met with mixed feelings in Georgia.

The republic's Procurator-General Vakhtang Razmadze told reporters he considered it "a gesture of humanism" and stressed it was "a fair and timely decision".

On the other hand, Colonel Georgiy Gulua, Tbilisi's interior department chief, believes that the criminal situation both in Tbilisi and in the republic is very tense. The amnesty whereby over 4,000 prisoners, including those serving time for major crimes, will be released, in his view, will further aggravate the situation "which may slip out of control".

According to Gulua, Tbilisi's police personnel passed a resolution at their meeting demanding that the amnesty decree be put on hold and a commission be set up to improve the document. In case the demand was not met, the policemen said they reserved the right to refrain from implementing the amnesty decree and to disobey the Military Council.

Tbilisi Garrison May Strike

LD2902212992 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 2010 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] Tbilisi—Tbilisi garrison of the Main Department of the Interior demands that the amnesty decree by the Georgian Military Council of February 27 be suspended. Such decision was taken by the February 28 General Assembly of the Tbilisi Garrison. Workers of militia call for setting up a commission that would not only study the decree and elaborate it, proceeding from principles of real justice and humanism, but will be governed by a desire to ensure stabilization of the operative situation. In the event if these demands fail to be met, assembly's participants reserve the right to disregard the decree on amnesty and to declare their disobedience to the Military Council of the republic.

PF [POSTFACTUM] learnt from the head of Tbilisi Main Department of the Interior Georgiy Gulua that 4,000 prisoners are expected to be discharged on amnesty basis, including those who have been convicted for major crimes. This circumstance will render already tense criminal situation in the republic still more complicated, causing runaway effects, stressed Gulua.

Republic's Black Sea Fleet Claims Explained

PM0103145392 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Feb 92 First Edition p 6

[Correspondent David Mdivani report: "Bermuda Triangle of Black Sea Fleet: Georgia Does Not Ask for Anyone Else's But Will Not Give Up Its Own So Easily Either"]

[Text] While Georgia's irreconcilable political forces were engaged in overthrowing the president, Gamsakhurdia's Russian and Ukrainian counterparts set about dividing up the Black Sea Fleet. They could probably be accused of failing to make a collective decision and even of infringing the interests of sovereign Georgia, whose 300km coast zone is washed by the waters of the Black Sea, while sizable fleet forces of the Navy lie in the ports of Poti and Ochamchira. However, the possibility also must not be ruled out that the two presidents could have ventured upon such a hasty shareout because they remembered the categorical and peremptory nature of the Georgian ex-president's statements about transferring ownership of all the military bases, hardware, etc. located on Georgian territory to the republic. To avoid unpleasantness, the leadership of the Black Sea Fleet imperceptibly withdrew the majority of the ships from the Poti and Ochamchira bases and placed them in Russian and Ukrainian docks.

The new Georgian leadership rejected the ultimatum-like tone for resolving questions, giving an assurance that it advocates a civilized dialogue.

"We are now working on a draft agreement on the partition of the Black Sea Fleet," Avtandil Tskitishvili, first deputy minister of defense and chief of the Defense Ministry Main Staff, said. "We plan to acquire just some of the warships stationed at the bases of Poti and Ochamchira. In this we place the emphasis on ships of medium and small tonnage—which enables us to speak of our defensive thrust."

Indeed ships of these classes are usually used to fulfill functions of a border purpose. But Georgia's warships will perform border service without sharing the functions, although they will also be ready to repulse a first strike by any aggressor.

The republic's economy is in a disastrous state today. The building of its own armed forces will lie as an additional burden on taxpayers' shoulders.

[Tskitishvili] Unfortunately, Georgia's centuries-old history teaches that its own armed forces are not a luxury but a necessity. Virtually being a buffer between the Christian world and the Muslim world, Georgia lies, as it were, between the hammer and the anvil.

[Mdivani] Will it not happen that, on acquiring its own fleet, Georgia will join one of the military blocs or that its light ships will be sent to the bottom by a blow of the hammer against the anvil?

"Whereas it is still possible to speak of the independence of the ground troops and Air Force subunits of the republics of the former Union, the border troops and the Navy do not have such a possibility at present," the chief of the Main Staff believes. "Even after dividing up the Black Sea Fleet among three republics, we will have to coordinate our joint actions. Therefore it will be possible to consider the appearance of Russian, Ukrainian, and even Turkish warships in our territorial waters perfectly normal.

"As distinct from Russia and Ukraine, we have to start not from zero but from less than zero. Therefore we do not intend to introduce a new oath before the creation of full-blooded armed forces. Nor are we thinking of debarring officers not of Georgian nationality from service. Particularly as many of them have made themselves at home in Georgia and put down roots here. On the contrary, each of them can give the republic essential assistance in training national cadres."

At present Georgia has received the consent in principle of native Georgian officers serving in the fleets of the former Union to continue their professional activity in the republic. Georgia is thinking in the future of reopening the nautical schools in Batumi and Sukhumi, which were closed down previously, and it is hoping to conclude contracts with the academies of St. Petersburg and a number of foreign countries on the training of officers.

My attempts to ascertain from the deputy minister the number of warships on which the republic is reckoning following the partition of the Black Sea Fleet left me with the impression that, not having managed to acquire them, the deputy minister is making a military secret out of this. Incidentally, the military ministry is excellently informed about the numbers and class of ships of foreign countries but does not possess precise data about the combat units of the USSR Navy, although many of the department's officers served 30 or more years in them. However, despite the very high degree of secrecy that still exists, the Defense Ministry's employees are already establishing the actual number of Black Sea Fleet ships—after which a specific discussion will begin on a three-way partition.

Estonia

Law Disenfranchises Russian-Speaking People

LD0203221192 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1200 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] Under the law on citizenship introduced in Estonia, 40 percent of the Russian-speaking population have become foreigners or persons without citizenship. They have no right to elect or be elected in representative power bodies as well as to form political parties in their own land.

A member of the Commission for Foreign Affairs in the Russian parliament, (Yevgeniy Sergeyev), believes the Estonian Government may be convinced by means of negotiations to introduce amendments into the law in accordance with international norms.

Treaty With EC Provides Support for Reforms

OW0203222792 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1843 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A treaty on trade and cooperation between Estonia and EC, has been initialed in Brussels. The Estonian delegation for talks in Brussels was led by Foreign Minister Lennart Meri, the EC delegation—by head of the Eastern and Central Europe Department John Maslen. The treaty envisages sales of Estonian textile products in the EC countries.

The political issue of the treaty provides for comprehensive support of democratic reforms and institutions in Estonia and development of new forms of cooperations between Estonia and EC. According to the treaty, the two sides will seek to find common ground in international issues and to take into account the interests of the other side while making political decisions.

The treaty will be signed April 6.

No Rehabilitation for Nazi, Soviet Collaborators

PM0203143292 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Feb 92 p 3

[Captain 2d Rank V. Vladimirov report from Tallinn under the "Direct Line" rubric: "Who Has Been Rehabilitated in Estonia? A Secondary But Not Unimportant Matter..."]

[Text] Estonia does not intend under any circumstances to rehabilitate those who are guilty of genocide or other crimes against humanity, regardless of whether these crimes were committed in collaboration with the Nazi or the Soviet repressive bodies, says a statement from the press service of the chairman of the Estonian Supreme Council which was disseminated by the ETA agency 26 February.

This statement is the first response in Estonia to the remarks by Russian Foreign Ministry Information Administration chief Vitaliy Churkin at a briefing in Moscow 24 February. On that occasion he described as unjust the decision adopted by the Republic of Estonia on the rehabilitation of all Estonians convicted of collaborating with the Hitlerites by Soviet courts in the postwar period. Churkin noted that among those rehabilitated are people guilty of the slaughter of the civilian population during World War II, and that therefore the decision "is all the more unjust in relation to those innocent people who were convicted."

Commenting on the remarks by the chief of the Russian Foreign Ministry Information Administration on the law adopted in Estonia on the rehabilitation of Estonians convicted by Soviet courts after World War II, the Republic of Estonia Supreme Council chairman's press service expressed "deep regret at such statements being made on the basis of patently inadequate and possibly deliberately distorted information." The law that has been adopted, the press service claims, "is not oriented exclusively toward the rehabilitation of people who collaborated with the Nazis," and if there are people among those who have been rehabilitated who are guilty of committing any crimes, their guilt must be proved according to the procedure established in legislation.

Many independent observers note that the statement by the Republic of Estonia Supreme Council chairman's press service was issued for political purposes, since there are indeed people among those rehabilitated whose guilt in the commission of crimes against the civilian population was proved at one time. Therefore, observers believe, the press service statement is nothing but an attempt to safeguard the Republic of Estonia leadership against subsequent criticism in the international arena.

New Internal Affairs Officials Appointed

LD0203203992 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1000 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Summary] Today's government meeting appointed Mati Sormus director general of the Civil Aviation Department; Matti Pats director general of the Patents Department; Juri Kaljuvee first deputy minister of internal affairs responsible for the police and preliminary investigation matters; Arved Jaaska deputy minister of internal affairs responsible for prisons and the state border.

Neeme Brus, the government's press secretary, reporting these changes, said that "it was considered of particular importance at the government's session today that the Estonian border should be firmly established within the next two weeks at the latest."

Linnar Liivamagi, formerly director general of the State Citizenship Department, was appointed director general of the new Passport Department. In the very near future the Estonian Committee's Citizenship Department and the present State Citizenship Department will merge.

State Budget Revenues Published

LD0103180792 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1103 GMT 29 Feb 92

[From the "Domestic Market" section]

[Text] According to the Estonian Economy Ministry, the state budget revenues of Estonia in 1991 make R3.377.1 billion [rubles], while the expenses are R3.030 billion. The main revenue items are the income tax from enterprises—R931.1 million (including state-run enterprises—R441.3 million, cooperatives—R135.5 million, joint-stock companies—R109.4 million, enterprises under the former Union subordination—R147.4 million) the turnover tax—R1069.5 million the excise tax—R735.8 million the tax on utilization of natural resources—R16.4 million the revenue from the customs activities—R37.1 million other taxes and duties—R281.7 million (including from the re-evaluation of goods—R87 million and from selling goods at commercial prices—R48.2 million).

Electricity Price Increases Cancelled

OW0103184992 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1517 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Saturday [29 March], Estonian Prime Minister [illegible] Vahi held an emergency meeting attended by industry, energy, economics and agriculture ministers. It was decided to cancel an electric energy price increase scheduled for March 1. According to Vahi, the current pricing policy is irresponsible vis a vis the Estonian population. The meeting concluded that price controls should be retained for a number of important goods and services, including some foodstuffs, electric and thermal energy, public transportation fares. A transition to world prices is inevitable, the ministers stated, but raising prices without reimbursing low-income groups is inadmissible.

Commercial Television Begins 1 Jun

LD0203221292 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1500 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] Fifteen shareholders will today sign the charter to found the Commercial Television [Reklaamitelevisioon] joint stock company. Toomas Lepp, advertising director of Estonian Television, said this does not mean that the status of Estonian Television has changed. In the future Estonian Television will be able to purchase equipment, programs, and other things with the income from commercial television.

The founders of commercial television are the Cultural Fund, the National Library, Estonian Fashion Design, Estimpeks, Estkompexim, Hansa Insurance, Inreko, [name indistinct] joint stock company, Tallinn Furniture House, Tarneko, Tartu department store, Tartu Commercial Bank, Estonian Telecommunications, and Estonian Television. Foreign capital is represented by Mainos Television, with 10 percent of the shares. The press notice says that not one shareholder will hold more than 20 percent of the shares.

The commercial television will start work on 1 June on the premises of the National Library.

Latvia

Government's Part in Soviet Debt Payment Eyed

OW2802220592 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1910 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Latvia does not rule out the possibility that it may take part in repaying the Soviet foreign debt and is prepared to discuss the practical aspects of the matter. This was the line taken by Latvia at the intergovernmental consultations on the problem of Soviet foreign debt repayments, which took place in Kiev on February 25. Latvia's position on the matter was disclosed by Mr. Maris Gailis, deputy foreign minister of the republic, at a news conference on Thursday [27 February].

He said that this policy will enable Latvia to acquire "the reputation of a reliable partner in the eyes of the West". Mr. Gailis also noted that Latvia is prepared to discuss its participation in the foreign debt of the USSR since 1940.

Mr. Gailis told journalists that the Soviet foreign debt was about $81bn [billion] as of January 1, 1991. The USSR's gold reserves currently amount to 148 tons [as received]. Former socialist countries and developing countries owe the USSR 92bn convertible rubles.

Therefore, Mr. Gailis said, Latvia stands to gain from taking part in discharging Soviet debts, since its debt to the Soviet Union is smaller than the share of the Soviet Union's assets it would get.

Ukraine Offers To Pay

PM0303120692 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Irina Litvinova: "Will Ukraine Pay Latvia's Debts?"]

[Text] Riga—Latvian Deputy Foreign Minister Maris Gailis told journalists that at the Kiev meeting where the payment of the former USSR's foreign debt was discussed, he received an interesting proposal from Ukraine.

It is prepared to take on the payment of Latvia's part of the debt. As a rough guide, it is a question of 1.14 percent of the total debt which falls to Latvia's lot.

If this option is adopted, then Ukraine, having paid Latvia's share, will receive Latvia's due share of the gold and diamonds, and will also claim the proportion due to the Latvian side of the 90 billion [currency not stated] owed to the Union by the developing countries.

Latvia must discuss Ukraine's proposal. If it is adopted, the Latvian state will relieve itself of the commitments which Western countries have recently been reminding it of the need to fulfill.

Budget Approved for First Half of Year

LD2902194792 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1400 GMT 27 Feb 92

[Text] As reported, the Latvian Supreme Council, at its morning session and after heated debate, has adopted and confirmed the Latvian State Budget for the first half of the year. The total sum of 6,589,340,000 rubles is being described as niggardly, balanced out to the ultimate, and, as leader of the unified Budget Commission Valentina Zeile said, it is certainly not just a budget to make ends meet.

Its execution will be very dependent on how successfully the bilateral talks with Russia proceed, and of course also with the republics of the former USSR. One of the most important positions in the income part of the budget is the profit tax, the total income from which may be reduced by 50% if relations with the former Soviet Union do not turn out as favorably as desired.

But how are these budget funds distributed? In percentage terms, the biggest part is devoted to education. That makes up 25% of the entire budget expenditure. For the financing of the national economy, 17.8% is allocated; for social and cultural ventures, 27.3% as a total; and for the direct and administrative needs of the institutions of state power, 16.4% of the budget was allotted to the Ministry of Internal Affairs; thus, for the defense complex, about which the plenary sitting clashed most—moreover the security structures do not include the Ministry of Internal Affairs—only 6% was allocated.

Specifically, in the new defense and security structure the Home Defense Guard is given 1.7%; the Security Service of the Republic of Latvia—0.6%; the Ministry of Defense—3.7% of the total budget expenditure.

This time two large programs were [word indistinct] in the budget: the Latgale development program and the Livonian Coast program. The rest of the expenditure is made up of grants and subsidies to local administrations.

Military Continues To Receive Recruits

OW0203222592 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1843 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the Latvian Defense Ministry, military units stationed on republican territory continue to receive recruits. Last week trucks with 270 soldiers came to a military unit located in Adazhi near Riga from Lithuania. 500 recruits arrived in Liepae, about 100 draftees wearing civilian clothes came to Zakumuizha in the Riga region.

In early February Russia and Latvia signed an agreement under which recruits should not be sent to Latvia and every movement of troops should be reported to state institutions of Latvia.

Soviet Army Equipment Awaits Removal

OW2902191392 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1517 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Shortly, the former Soviet Army's property, including chemical agents, may be removed from Daugavpils (Latvia), in 300 vans. Chief of the Daugavpils chemical depots Sergey Kuznetsov told BF [BALTFAX] that an agreement on removing this property had been reached with the customs department.

He also said that the Army equipment which can be used for civilian purposes had been sold to private companies.

Enterprises Agree To Mutual Supply With Russia

OW2902191792 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1517 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Latvian premier Ivars Godmanis announced that Latvia and Russia had balanced the hard-currency value of the indicative list of mutual supplies, although the list itself has not been coordinated yet.

Ivars Godmanis and the Latvian ministers for foreign trade and power-engineering Edgars Zausajevs and Visvaris Miller have met with the leaders of the biggest Latvian enterprises.

The Latvian premier said that Russia is expected to supply Latvia with more than 1,500 trucks and 5,000 cars, medicines, 90,000 tons [as received] of gasoline, diesel fuel and 7,100 tons of newsprint.

The minister for power engineering stated that the cost of one kilowatt/hour of electricity will go up to 80 kopecks.

Ivars Godmanis said that the government was drafting a resolution on fixing purchasing prices on agricultural produce. He told BF [BALTFAX] that the Latvian government would also fix prices on gasoline sold to farmers.

* * * Lithuanian Deputy Minister for Economy Vytas Navickas informed BF that by agreement with the Russian Ministry for Economy reached last Friday [28 February] Lithuania will obtain 28 million dollars worth of medicines on a clearing basis. Vytas Navickas said

that the medicines figured in the indicative list of mutual exchanges which Lithuania and Russia are still to coordinate.

He said that the "main battle" for Russian oil and other energy resources would take place on March 3 in Moscow. He also expressed hope that the sides would come to terms on the supplies of at least 3 million tons of oil and 4 billion cubic meters of natural gas annually to Lithuania, on an inter-governmental basis. He believes that it will not be difficult for Russia to ensure such a volume of supplies.

Lithuania's internal needs in oil were estimated at 7 million tons a year, he said and expressed hope that the Russian leaders would not object to the exports of the 4 million tons of oil which Lithuania lacks on the basis of direct agreements between Russian and Lithuanian enterprises.

In exchange for fuel Lithuania might supply Russia with food and Kaliningrad—with electric energy.

Alliance of Democratic Forces Formed

LD2902040192 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1830 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] Today we spoke of a Latvian Alliance of Democratic Forces taking shape. So, at the House of Congresses in Riga, there was a meeting of the republic's democratic forces.

Responding to the call by the founders and activists of the People's Front of Latvia, (?Jurijs Abizovs), Ilmars Bisers, Ints Calitis, Janis Skapars, and others to form an Association of Democratic Forces of the Republic, 250 people gathered—mostly representatives of Latvian public movements and parties, as well as non-partisan people.

It was decided to work out a program by 15 March for the Alliance of Democratic Forces of the Republic, and to work out initiative groups at democratic centers in the countryside and the Democratic Center Fund.

Elected as leader of the fund was Supreme Council Deputy Ints Calitis.

The alliance is intended to unite all democratic and centristically inclined people in the republic, and it will be a counterweight to the national-radical and conservative forces.

At present, though, it is not clear whether the Alliance of Democratic Forces will unite individual democratically inclined people, or whether it will also be an alliance of parties.

Nor is it clear whether a new public organization is being formed or a new center party. Nor did it specify its attitude toward the largest public organization in the republic, the People's Front of Latvia.

Lithuania

Delays in Complete Troop Withdrawal Cited

PM0103134392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Feb 92 Morning Edition pp 1, 2

[Report by Igor Laskevich: "Withdrawal of Troops from Lithuania Did Not Start 25 February. New Date of 3 March Announced"]

[Text] Those expecting on Tuesday [25 February] morning a convoy of combat equipment and servicemen of the air defense division stationed in the settlement of Mickunai, on the outskirts of Vilnius, to head for the Lithuanian-Belarussian border and then to Russia were clearly disappointed: Their expectations were not realized.

First and foremost, the withdrawal of troops as such, that is to say, the complete redeployment of the combined unit of air defense troops from Lithuanian territory did not take place. And although Colonel V. Grigoryev, commander of the unit, confirmed to your correspondent that the official date for the start of withdrawal should indeed be regarded as 25 February, no specific actions for the large-scale redeployment of the unit had been taken.

Grigoryev then explained matters to me: The combined unit was completely ready to withdraw—which, incidentally, it had demonstrated at the inspection carried out in the morning—but the actual withdrawal of the subunit from the republic will now take place only on 3 March. According to him, during this week Russian and Lithuanian experts are to work out the property issues, transfer and receive the military installation, and resolve other questions; and only then will the combined unit head off to its new place of deployment—"the western borders of Russia."

Such a scenario for the withdrawal of the first military subunit from Lithuanian territory will scarcely suit the Lithuanian side. The day before the press attache of the Lithuanian parliament informed journalists of the opinion of V. Landsbergis, who queried whether the present redeployment can be regarded as the real start of troop withdrawal.

Landsbergis stressed that an accord had been reached at the January meeting with Yeltsin on the immediate withdrawal of Russian Armed Forces from the Lithuanian capital, which is not the case here.

The purely numerical factor—what is being withdrawn and how much—will scarcely satisfy Lithuania either. The division, which is armed with anti-aircraft missile launchers, together with officers, NCO's, and soldiers, numbers over 100 service personnel. Meanwhile, according to official statistics, very large military formations are stationed in Lithuania: four divisions—two airborne assault divisions one motorized rifle division, and one division of marines, plus units of air defense and military aviation. There is a substantial grouping of troops in Vilnius.

Lithuania is most interested of all in their withdrawal. However, back in January, at the meeting of Lithuanian and Russian state delegations on the problem of troop withdrawal, when the timetable for the start of withdrawal—February—was planned, it became clear that the timetable was unrealistic and was due more to political considerations than common sense.

The date only looked impressive on paper. The reality, however, was much more daunting. Servicemen could not and were reluctant to attempt to do more to pass muster. The choice therefore fell on a mobile, small subunit such as the Mickunai division. Moreover, as officers of the unit informed me, they have been promised more or less normal social and everyday living conditions "on the western border of Russia," which, according to available information, is Leningrad Oblast.

Incidentally, judging by the calm reaction of J. Paujolis, deputy minister of territorial protection, who heads the inspection group, the Lithuanian side was prepared for such a development of events.

"An inspection of the inventory and the environmental and epidemiological state of the installation will be carried out," he stated, "and the results will become known on 27 February."

And yet, despite the political upheavals surrounding the problem of troop withdrawal, the long process of phased redeployment of the Russian Armed Forces from Lithuania has started. It is difficult at present to say how it will proceed or when it is to be expected to finish. The individual stages of withdrawal, property issues, inspections, and the sequence—which subunits withdraw when and from where—all these problems will be the topic of discussion at subsequent meetings of experts.

...A small Russian flag was to be seen in the cab window of one of the powerful tow vehicles. When the driver noticed I was looking, he waved to indicate going home...

Vilnius Exit 'Dragging' 'Out'

LD0203204692 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1200 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] The Baltic News Service agency has reported that in his regular address on television on Sunday [1 March] evening, Vytautas Landsbergis stressed that Russia has not yet started the withdrawal of troops, that they are dragging it out. What is most important, according to Landsbergis, is that one has arrived at the conclusion that Russia is not showing any intention of starting the withdrawal of units stationed in Vilnius. In his opinion, this is the most important agreement because it was signed by President Yeltsin. The negotiations are disrupted, dragged out, the agreed meetings with the experts do not take place or end with no results with the representatives of Russia, or the armed forces unexpectedly announce that they have no authorization. There is much similarity in this with the recent times of Ryzhkov, Doguzhiyev, Lukyanov, and Gorbachev, Vytautas Landsbergis said.

He said that as in Gorbachev's time, seeking help from the West will continue so that the troops are withdrawn as soon as possible. According to Vytautas Landsbergis, sometimes one can already hear intentions voiced even by some fairly high-ranking Russian officials that the Baltic states will be reclaimed, if not this year then next year, or in a couple of years' time.

The disruptions of oil supplies to Mazeikiai oil refinery are regarded by Landsbergis as political pressure.

'Sad Sight' Left in Mickunai

LD2902225692 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2200 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Lithuanian Defense Ministry experts have inspected the ecological and sanitary conditions of the area, buildings, and engineering facilities vacated by the military.

According to Deputy Defense Minister Jonas Gecas, the military left behind a rather sad sight at Mickunai. Trees have been cut down, gasoline and grease have been spilled, and piles of trash have been left behind. The soil has been damaged very extensively throughout the entire 24-hectare area. [passage omitted]

Landsbergis Attends Talks in Monaco, Germany

LD0203133492 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1900 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] The 21st session of the Peace Academy ended yesterday in Monaco. It was attended by Vytautas Landsbergis, chairman of the Lithuanian Supreme Council, who delivered a speech there. He also met with NATO representatives who attended the session - (Jean Renault), adviser on economic issues to the NATO Secretary General, and NATO delegate Amedeo de Franchis.

The NATO representatives informed the chairman of the Lithuanian Supreme Council about the Cooperation Council of the North Atlantic countries, the aim of which is to consolidate stability in Eastern Europe and to ensure that the former Soviet Union observes all previously signed agreements.

To a question from Vytautas Landsbergis whether humanitarian aid to the former Soviet Union will be linked with the present stability of the borders, the NATO representatives replied that everything will be resolved in the spirit of the Helsinki process and that present borders should be respected.

During the conversation the NATO representatives were interested in Lithuania's view as regards the future of Kaliningrad oblast. Vytautas Landsbergis replied that after the demilitarization of this excessively militarized zone the security of Europe will be strengthened. Then its residents will face completely new economic prospects.

On the same day the chairman of the Lithuanian Supreme Council left by air for Bonn where, at the German seat of government, he took part in the signing of an agreement between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Republic of Lithuania on ways to encourage capital investments and their mutual protection. The treaty was signed by Lithuanian Minister of International Economic Relations Vytenis Aleskaitis and the German Deputy Chancellor, Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

Then Vytautas Landsbergis met with German President Richard von Weizsaecker. It was agreed during their talk with German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher that both sides will shortly prepare a joint political declaration on the basis of which the further agreement on the principles of international relations and cooperation between Lithuania and Germany will be drawn up.

During the talk with Federal President Weizsaecker the possibilities of the demilitarization of Kaliningrad oblast were discussed. The talk also concerned how Germany could help to reconstruct the Lithuanian railroads. During the talk with the Federal President and the foreign minister further problems of the Republic of Lithuania and the construction of the Klaipeda-Mazeikiai oil pipeline were discussed.

Vytautas Landsbergis voiced thanks for Germany's help in facilitating Lithuania's admission to the International Monetary Fund and explained that Lithuania might neeed a speedier financial assistance linked with the introduction of Lithuania's own currency.

The Federal President hosted a state banquet in honor of Vytautas Landsbergis.

Then Vytautas Landsbergis and officials left for Hamburg where they took part the same evening in a traditional dinner in the City Hall.

Today Vytautas Landsbergis attended a political forum entitled "Freedom, Equality, Solidarity", organized by the German Catholic Academy.

Landsbergis, PRC Ambassador on Trade Links

LD2802100492 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2200 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Pei Yuanying, PRC ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary in Lithuania, today presented his credentials to parliament Chairman Vytautas Landsbergis. The Chinese diplomat, who permanently resides in Warsaw, later met Deputy Prime Minister Vytautas Pakalniskis. The sides assured that they were interested in developing mutually advantageous trade and cultural links. The deputy prime minister agreed that it is expedient to set up a Chinese trade mission and other interstate structures in Lithuania which would help to regulate the guarantees of investment, customs regime, and other bilateral cooperation issues.

Letter to Kohl Sheds Light on Money Confusion

OW2802224492 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1910 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The already existing conflicting reports on the future of Lithuania's national currency, the lit, have become more numerous following the publication by Lietuvos Rytas of a letter from the chairman of the republic's parliament, Mr. Landsbergis, to Germany's Chancellor Helmut Kohl. The newspaper, which is in possession of a copy of the letter, claims that in it Mr Lansdsbergis writes that "our money has already been manufactured and is kept in the Bank of Lithuania, but are unable to put it into circulation without a stabilization fund".

Mr. Lansdsbergis is said to believe that the stabilization fund could be created when "we join the IMF and the World Bank, but that will not take place until summer, and we may have to introduce our currency before that time".